Daily Report

Latin America

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FBIS-LAT-94-140 *21 July 1994*

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Andean States Agree To Promote Energy Integration

PA1907170494 Paris AFP in Spanish 2154 GMT 16 Jul 94

[Text] Quito, 16 Jul (AFP)—Venezuelan Francisco Gutierrez, executive secretary of the Latin American Energy Organization [OLADE], has told AFP that on 16 July in Quito energy ministers from five Andean countries approved OLADE's proposal on energy integration.

OLADE, which is made up of 25 Latin American countries, proposed a mechanism for subregional energy coordination, complementarity, and integration, because the energy issue has been neglected with regard to the unquestionable advances made in industrial and trade sectors.

The Andean countries, which are determined to create a common market, believe it is necessary to promote energy integration, a main component of development processes and life itself. This is what the five ministers agreed on during the first day of their sixth two-day meeting.

OLADE's proposal was unanimously accepted and will allow the Andean countries to coordinate tangible, short-term steps toward achieving energy integration in the Andean subregion.

The ministers and their experts focused on petroleum, gas, electricity, and alternative energy sources, as well as on exploration, exploitation, and production processes. They also studied cooperation mechanisms to guarantee a medium- and long-term supply of energy.

The ministers also took advantage of the meeting to hold bilateral talks, taking into account that this is the forum during which energy integration has advanced the most.

Gutierrez said that energy integration in the subregion will become a reality, even though agreements remain to be signed.

He explained that the method of integration will be based on principles of the market economy, mutual aid, and tolerance in guaranteeing the security of energy supplies and efficiency in the use and pricing of energy. They will also promote a subregional market and protection of the environment.

The meeting recognized that the subregional integration process is under way, a process that has made some progress on lifting tariffs, opening up, and deregulation, which will have favorable repercussions for investments within the region.

International trade in hydrocarbons is one of the main sources of foreign exchange from exports by Andean Group countries. For instance, the sale of oil and its byproducts exceeds 50 percent of the $30 billion in products exported by the five Andean countries.

This is added to the potential for producing hydraulic electricity and to the opportunities for interconnectivity in electricity, which is open to investment from large multinational development projects.

Taking into account the importance of energy within the subregion, the ministers recognized organizations like the Andean Development Corporation (CAF), the Cartagena Agreement Board, and OLADE itself can promote integration.

They also recognized they have been unable to draft a high-level coordination plan that will allow implementation of sound common policies and objectives in Andean countries. This is why they believe approval of OLADE's proposal will produce positive results.

Carlos Miranda Pacheco, Bolivian energy minister; Guido Nule Amin, Colombian mines and energy minister; Francisco Acosta, Ecuadoran energy and mines minister; Daniel Hokama Tokashiki, Peruvian energy and mines minister; and Erwin Arrieta Valera, Venezuelan energy and mines minister, attended the meeting.

The ministers and their delegations will end their discussions tonight in Quito and will visit Lago Agrio, an Ecuadoran Amazon community in the heart of oil operations, tomorrow morning.

Cuba

UNHCR Official Visits Haitian Refugee Camp

FL2007220594 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 20 Jul 94

[From the "National Radio News"]

[Text] Fragile boats frequently land on Cuban shores carrying Haitians fleeing the tragic situation that that country is currently facing. More than 300 refugees are currently at the Punta de Maisi international camp, which has been set up for that purpose. Jose Llanos reports on a UNHCR representative's recent visit to the camp:

[Llanos] Alberto Aragon, UNHCR representative in Cuba, was pleased with the treatment that the 316 Haitians were receiving at the Punta de Maisi international camp. Aragon thanked Cuban authorities, during his visit to the refugee facility located at Cuba's eastern tip, for their support and the efficient cooperation with his organization, which is evident by the treatment given to the Haitian citizens who land on Cuban shores. Aragon pointed out in a "National Radio News" interview that the UNHCR is waiting for the Haitian situation to stabilize to fulfill repatriation accords with the Cuban Government as quickly as possible. Cuba is currently providing refuge to 316 Haitians, the majority of whom arrived in Cuba over the last few weeks aboard fragile boats.

Commentary on UN Special Rapporteur, Rights Commissioner

PA2007042794 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Commentary by Roberto Morejon; from the "Evening Information Review" newscast]

[Text] The possibility that Ecuadoran Jose Ayala, the UN high commissioner for human rights, might visit Cuba is in line with the island authorities' customary cooperation with special UN organizations, and it is completely unrelated to their refusal to approve a visit by the intrusive special rapporteur for Cuba.

Ayala, who was appointed at the Vienna Conference in June 1993 and later approved by the UN General Assembly, handles, without any type of discrimination, human rights issues on a worldwide basis. The official's visit to the island—if it is finalized—is not out of the ordinary, because here he will learn the views of Cuban officials on the validity of citizen rights—an issue that has been grossly manipulated in the West.

Although Cuba has endured an ongoing campaign that presents distorted views of the island's respect for human rights, the government has continued to cooperate with UN offices, and, in light of this cooperation, contacts will be made with the commissioner for human rights.

Cuba categorically refuses to receive the so-called special rapporteur who was appointed because of U.S. political and economic pressure. Similar pressure also prompted the UN Human Rights Commission to issue clearly anti-Cuban resolutions since 1991. In accordance with the most frenzied campaigns staged by the extreme right-wing sector of the Cuban immigrants who reside in the United States, the White House has organized in recent years boisterous anti-Cuban displays in the Swiss city of Geneva, where the UN Human Rights Commission meets every year. The imposed special rapporteur for Cuba has written reports that distort Cuba's reality and that are essentially based on erroneous testimony by people who cater to the interests of the most right-wing organizations in the anti- revolutionary realms of Miami.

For this reason, it is inadmissible for Cubans to receive a rapporteur who, in addition to presenting a picture of alleged massive human rights violations in Cuba, represents the darkest efforts to isolate the Cuban case. This is not the case with the commissioner for human rights, however. Therefore, if he visits our country, he will be able to see the results of an imperfect experience, but one that is valid in terms of human rights.

Peruvian Envoy on Sugar Industry Cooperation

PA2007182094 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1907 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Text] Havana, 19 Jul (NOTIMEX)—Cuban engineers and experts are cooperating in the restoration of the Peruvian sugar industry and are exploring future construction of new sugar houses, Peruvian Ambassador in Cuba Jose Torres Muga confirmed here today.

In statements to NOTIMEX, Torres Muga said that with that goal in mind, Raul Trujillo, Cuban sugar industry vice minister, toured northern Peru with a delegation of specialists.

"The idea is to build sugar mills and restore some of the run-down sugar mills," the diplomat said in praising what he called "Cuba's stated willingness to cooperate with Peru."

Torres Muga indicated that both Peru and Cuba are trying to obtain international financial assistance for this cooperation project.

"The Peruvian sugar industry has faced dismal prospects since the 1970's because of outdated equipment and adverse results in production cooperatives, among other circumstances," he explained.

"We are currently trying to revive that industry, which once generated export revenues of $300 million a year for Peru," he stated.

Torres Muga added that among plans for bilateral cooperation, Peru might consider the option of selling oil to Havana if new oil reserves are discovered as a result of current exploration plans.

"Our oil balance is more or less balanced. A large portion of our oil production is consumed in the country, while small surpluses are being channeled toward other areas with which we already have agreements," he clarified.

Torres Muga said that Peru produces an average of 130,000 barrels of crude a day, which are used to meet its domestic needs since it has other energy sources, such as large hydroelectric plants. Some of these plants are interconnected.

But the ambassador explained that the oil sector also ranks high among the interests of a large delegation of Peruvian businessmen who will visit Cuba by mid-August to explore business opportunities in that country.

As for an eventual oil agreement, he said that if it comes to pass, Peruvian and Cuban experts would explore how to channel the supplies, either through direct sales or balanced trade.

Peru and Cuba, which resumed diplomatic relations in July 1972, "have showed a genuine interest in strengthening those ties. Both Cubans and Peruvians are trying to increase those ties for the benefit of the two nations," he asserted.

The diplomat noted that the twinning of towns in Peru and Cuba—such as Ancon and Guanabo and Cusco and Havana, among others—is an expression of their friendly relations.

Russian Public Opinion Favors Increased Ties

FL2007223494 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1953 GMT 20 Jul 94

[Text] Despite changes in Russian politics, public opinion in that country favors increased, strengthened ties with Cuba.

The poll results provided by (Lydya Kazakov), director of the International Psychological Research Center, shows that 70.2 percent of those questioned wish to tighten ties of friendship and collaboration between Havana and Moscow. Additionally, 67.3 percent expressed admiration and approval of Fidel Castro, leader of the Cuban Revolution, particularly for his firm stance on principles, and the defense of the accomplishments of socialism.

(Kazakov), who described the opinions of those polled as significant, added that 53.2 percent expressed interest in tourism development in Cuba.

Alarcon To Attend Latin American Parliament

FL2107022294 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 20 Jul 94

[Text] Ricardo Alarcon, president of the National Assembly of the People's Government, leads a Cuban delegation that will attend a meeting of the Latin American Parliament, to be held in Caracas, Venezuela, between 22 and 24 July. Among other things, the meeting will examine social debt, the situation regarding women, family, and children. According to the agenda, the special commission on social debt will try to identify and focus on the effects of economic and political measures regarding the distribution of national income and resources destined for welfare and health care.

Embassy Denies Castro Statements in CORRIERE

BR1807145994 Rome LA REPUBBLICA in Italian 17 Jul 94 p 7

[Report by Massimo Aquili: "It Is Not True That Fidel Likes Berlusconi"]

[Excerpts] Rome—According to the Cuban Embassy, Fidel Castro never said "Forward Berlusconi." A communique issued by Cuban diplomats last Friday [15 July] said that "the statements attributed to Commander Fidel Castro and published in CORRIERE DELLA SERA's weekly supplement SETTE on 15 July do not correspond to the truth."

To tell the truth, the denial was already in the air even before the interview with the last major exponent of world communism had been read by the Cuban diplomats. SETTE's editorial board itself qualified Castro's statements as surprising and published the whole thing under a red heading which, by way of disclaimer, read "Incredible but true." Not only, but to avoid misunderstandings it also published a photograph of Castro together with the interviewer. [passage omitted]

By a sort of curious chance, the day before Castro's purported statements, Berlusconi's government was considering a proposed bill for aid to Cuba.

The only person who did not find the interview's statements strange was Luciano Canfora, the expert on "communist affairs" whom SETTE asked to comment on Castro's surprising praise of Berlusconi. "What is so strange about it? Mussolini himself," Canfora wrote, "extolled Lenin in an interview with a journalist." And, as a real expert, he guessed the outcome of the affair: "Perhaps," he added, "denials or corrections will come from Havana."

U.S. Businessmen Want To Establish Contacts

FL2107022894 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 20 Jul 94

[Text] The business community of San Antonio and Houston, Texas, is interested in establishing business contacts with Cuba. The heads of several corporations said so to Alfonso Fraga, chief of the Cuban Interests Section in Washington. Fraga, accompanied by other Cuban representatives, visited both cities and met with local officials and executives of renowned corporations, companies, banks, and offices and gave several conferences.

PRELA reported that the meeting brought to light all these sectors' interest in the possibility of doing business with Cuba.

New Equipment Will Ease Havana Water Shortage

PA2007124594 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1414 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Text] Havana, 18 Jul (DPA)—New equipment will soon be used in an attempt to solve water supply problems in Havana, which this month were added to more critical shortages of electricity, transportation, and food.

Lourdes Mitjans, provincial director of the aqueduct in the city of Havana, said the new equipment will help reduce the waste of water in three months.

According to Mitjans, the equipment consists of five bulldozers, including three large ones, a 16-ton dump truck, three compressors, one loader, and seven air hammers.

After acknowledging that the equipment will not cover all the current needs of the provincial aqueduct, Mitjans said it will improve conditions by eliminating leaks, one of the most serious problems with Havana's water supply.

The water shortage now affecting four districts in Havana is due to a combination of low water levels, worn-out equipment, and approximately 160 leaks in the main water pipelines.

Provincial authorities responsible for Havana's water supply are now distributing water free of charge—using water tanks—in the most affected districts, giving priority to hospitals, schools, and child care centers.

A recent government report said that approximately 40 percent of the water sent to the capital is lost through leaks in the main water pipelines, as well as in the water system and faucets in houses and working centers.

Spare parts to repair dripping faucets are difficult to obtain due to the economic crisis affecting the island, which officially has been described as the worst since 1959.

Journalists Discuss Agricultural Cooperatives

FL1907232194 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1155 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Telephone conversation between anchorman Ariel Larramendi and reporter Diosdado Maso; from the "Doing Radio" program—live]

[Text] [Larramendi] Diosdado?

[Maso] Yes, I can hear you.

[Larramendi] Since we must rebroadcast General Raul Castro's speech and have only a small amount of time, I would like to address two issues: Was the price problem, meaning problems regarding the prices of cooperative members' products, discussed at the Basic Cooperative Production Units [UBPC's] meeting? I also want to ask what the UBPC's percentage was concerning the amount of tillable land.

[Maso] Well, Ariel, the problem regarding prices was discussed at length and I thought it was timely because, despite the good will that prevails among UBPC members to produce a bit more than what has been produced to date, the price problem is decisive.

[Larramendi] I see.

[Maso] I have an example: The president of La Ceiba Antonio Maceo UBPC in San German, Holguin Province, said at a meeting that he is all for putting the economy on a sound basis. However, it takes eight pesos to produce one quintal of plantains and he cannot sell it to the suppliers for six pesos, then have them charging 30 cents for something he sold to them for six cents. He said the problem must be analyzed because, despite the cooperative workers' efforts and labor, they would not be able to achieve the results the country needs.

[Larramendi] I believe these intermediary enterprises, the suppliers, must be assessed so the relationship between the farmers, the suppliers, and the people can be better organized.

[Maso] Of course. Referring to what you told me in our earlier conversation, the people were not satisfied because the UBPC's have failed to solve the daily food problem.

[Larramendi] I see.

[Maso] I also explained that the UBPC is another link in the country's production-agriculture chain. To be more specific about what you asked me, the UBPC's represent only 36 percent. There are 1,076 UBPC's involved in non-sugarcane farming. This represents 36 percent of the state-owned agricultural land.

[Larramendi] Let me get it right: the UBPC's represent 36 percent, individual farmers and cooperatives represent 20 percent, and the rest belongs to the state.

[Maso] Exactly. The state has the rest. The integrated units and state farms till this land. Consequently, once you learn this information, you realize perfectly well that things are not as we thought. Obviously, we are responsible for our listeners' and the people's concept on this. The information that many leaders or many journalists have given about the UBPC's has not been clear enough, or objective.

[Larramendi] Yes, that is correct.

[Maso] We have defended the idea, but we have failed to provide sufficient information. There is more to that 36 percent of the country's state-owned land: It includes all the cattle, citrus, coffee, rice, tobacco, apiculture, and forestry farms. So you see, the assorted-crop farms represent a very small percentage, only 274 caballerias, compared with the cattle farms' 536 caballerias. Thus,

when you say we have 10,049 caballerias worth of plantains, and all of the UBPC assorted-crop farms have 274, there is no way the UBPC's can fully guarantee enough food for the Cuban people's table.

[Larramendi] We will discuss this topic on another occasion because we have run out of time.

[Maso] Perfect.

Deficit Reduction Policies Implemented

FL2107022494 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 20 Jul 94

[Text] On 20 July, Finance and Price Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez announced that deficit reduction policies are being implemented successfully nationwide. In a statement to the national news agency, Rodriguez pointed out that to date, the execution of the budget is promising in general, and warned that the remaining months are very critical. Rodriguez added that this important effort is assessed monthly at the municipal and provincial levels.

Investigation Ongoing in Case of Chicken Thieves

FL2007014494 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 Jul 94

[Text] [Words indistinct] to the illegal sale of chickens in the underground had received a significant setback. A total of 29 were arrested and the investigation is ongoing.

It is known that the theft of chickens would begin at the port. On the way to the refrigeration facilities, more chickens would disappear. The thieves end up with the chickens by forging paperwork and altering the weight allocated to distribution. The police managed to dismantle the group, which had stolen a number of the chickens from the administrative mechanism of the refrigeration facility and enterprises. There are many reasons for the investigation to continue. The police have been arresting the [words indistinct] and is keeping an eye on those who received the product from the underground market.

Criteria To Reduce Surplus Tourism Workers Outlined

94CA0123C Havana TRABAJADORES in Spanish 30 May 94 p 8

[Article by Iliana Hautrive]

[Text] Our tourism industry, with a priority program now being developed, still has workers who, for basic reasons of efficiency, are unnecessary.

It is not a question of letting these surplus workers go forever, but rather of preserving them through positive methods like training or upgrading their skills, to give only two examples.

Osmany Cienfuegos, the head of the Ministry of Tourism, made it clear that it is essential to protect every skilled and capable surplus in the tourism sector. And it is worthwhile to add that, as a strategy, this capable labor force needs to be maintained because these workers may be needed sooner rather than later.

There are tourism sites in Cuba, for example, where some years ago it was believed that thousands of workers were needed and it was calculated that in the present phase the number needed might even double. However, despite the construction of new hotels, there are still some surplus workers now, not because of erroneous forecasts, but because of the streamlining process our nation so greatly needs.

According to plans adopted in the tourism sector, this process is now moving toward practical implementation. It has been made clear that the best worker, the most capable worker, will be the one who keeps his job, not the one with the most seniority or the one who holds a permanent position.

If conditions of ability are equal, then the worker with a permanent position will be kept, and of these, the one with the most seniority, but the principal requirement will always remain valid.

Establishing a minimum or reduced workforce in each tourism entity is a step taken toward an essential streamlining, with the vital objective of also having a sufficient labor force available to respond to tourism increases.

The new structure that has been introduced gradually since 1 April 1994 is intended to facilitate the objective of keeping only essential workers, as a necessary cost-reduction move. In this way, it will be more feasible to achieve the economic efficiency that is fortunately being discussed today in our assemblies, as we continue to protect the best workers.

Commentary on Managers' Responsibilities to Workers

94CA0123A Havana JUVENTUD REBELDE in Spanish 29 May 94 p 4

[Commentary by Jose Alejandro Rodriguez]

[Text] For some time I have been trying to clear up public doubts about more than one of the economic phenomena the nation is now experiencing, and answers are hard to find. More than one official takes refuge in silence and hides behind wornout excuses. More than one telephone call produces excuses and waiting periods.

I cannot comprehend the transformations and measures taking place in our society if they are not to be accompanied by a process of providing systematic information to people, by an exhaustive explanation of the reasons underlying them, by providing strong illumination of everything that affects the lives and destinies of the citizens. Omissions are never persuasive. The mystery syndrome leads to rumors and uncertainty, and causes people to think the worst.

Never before have the people needed to know so precisely exactly what is really happening. Many problems will not have visible solutions right now, and imponderables will continue to impact our lives. And there are also many solutions to be pointed out. But the citizens need to know all of this, to know what is being done to deal with these complex issues, how much is or is not being accomplished in any given direction; to find out just where the nation stands and to distinguish possibilities from impossibilities, pretexts from reasons.

Common sense and intelligence are essential today to deal with so many challenges. We journalists can contribute to this collective reflection, to the public debate, but only if we are well informed, and access to information is not barred to us. No explanations or reasons can be given without evidence and hard facts.

In these days of rendering accounts, I also wonder how far everyone with a public responsibility handles that responsibility in dealing with his peers every day, in the daily events of existence, by paying attention to his colleagues' concerns; by lending an attentive ear, by showing sensitive concern to the complaint of a citizen who knocks on his office door or calls on the telephone.

I refuse to tolerate a situation in which the managerial style of these times is burdened with old bureaucratic formulas: a monkish withdrawal inside offices, far from the fray of life; the excuse that says I am not, or he cannot, and turns a deaf ear; and the absence of an official's human face behind every public issue.

Let us hope that in evaluating management cadres, an ability to deal with public complaints, to express sensitivity to collective and social problems, and to respond to citizens' worries may also be included and given their full weight.

So many difficulties are gripping the lives of Cubans today that often neglect and irresolution become confused and mixed up with inevitable and objective limitations. Comments on both deserve the most serious consideration. And when there is no solution at hand, the simple and humane action of listening, of paying attention to any fellow citizen, and of giving him an explanation and information are well worth the effort. People appreciate this.

Raul Castro Rewards Eastern Army Tank Unit

FL2007154794 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 Jul 94

[From the "NTV" newscast]

[Text] A large Eastern Army tank unit has been rewarded for setting an example with its equipment and armaments. Army General Raul Castro, Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR] minister, unveiled the commemorative plaque awarded to the unit, the first of its kind in the Eastern Army. This is the first award to be given to an Eastern Army unit. The unit, which is completely protected underground, has a high level of technical preparation in all combat armaments, which are in good condition and are ready to repel an enemy assault. The soldiers described the minister's visit as an incentive and said that the award is their contribution to the upcoming 26 July celebrations and an important step toward achieving their goal, namely the Batalla del Jiguey award.

Division General Ulises Rosales del Toro, FAR chief of general Staff, congratulated the unit:

[Begin Rosales recording] As we approach the celebration of another anniversary of the Moncada Barracks assault and after having been summoned by the army general to the battle that the fatherland is facing, this brigade demonstrates what the position of the revolutionaries should be during these difficult times that the fatherland is experiencing. On behalf of the FAR minister, we congratulate you. [end recording]

Roundup of Economic Developments

FL1907234594

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on economic developments monitored between 15 and 19 July.

Granma Province Marble Complex Exports—The Manuel Hernandez marble complex, in Jiguani, Granma Province, made over $229,000 from the export of 7,000 square meters of marble during the first semester of 1994. Their current goal is to produce 10,000 square meters monthly and accrue $500,000 in the second semester. (Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0900 GMT 15 Jul 94)

After undergoing maintenance, unit number 6 of the Diez de Octubre electric plant in Nuevitas Municipality, Camaguey Province, is back online. The amount of available energy is 440 megawatts. A plant engineer has stated that after efforts made by the workers at the plant, units one, four, five, and six are online and the plant is currently producing 335 megawatts. (Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 15 Jul 94)

In Guama Municipality, Santiago de Cuba Province, harvest workers have received an incentive consisting of 500 pairs of shoes from the provincial government, based on their production of tubers and vegetables. The municipalities' Turquino Plan workers produced 20,000 quintales of tubers and vegetables, production still below their capacity, but higher than other municipalities. (Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 16 Jul 94)

In Holguin, (Abraham Masiques), president of Cubanacan S.A. tourist corporation, has advised that Cubanacan has earned an income of 130 million pesos in currency for Cuba during the first six months of this year. This amount is $5 million more than expected, and represents income growth of 38 percent, compared to the

same period of time in 1993. (Masiques) pointed out that this income increase could mean 30-percent growth between 1993 and 1994, and could signify accruing 253 million pesos in currency this year. (Masiques) went on to say that there are contracts with foreign companies for the immediate construction of six new hotels, currently underway in several provinces, with a total cost of $160 million. (Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 16 Jul 94)

A ceremony marking the arrival of donations from Puerto Real de San Diego, Spain, was held at the "Amistad con Valencia" bus terminal, in San Miguel del Padron. The shipment included 900 tons of goods for Pinar del Rio, Havana, and Havana City. The shipment also included 35 buses, which raises the number of buses donated by Spain to more than 300. Approximately 500 buses circulate in Havana, of which 40 percent have been donated. Havana is also working on the construction of 260 super trainbuses and 200 regular buses, of which 110 are already in service. Another 200 buses are also being repaired, which will service approximately 2.5 million passengers. (Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 19 Jul 94)

In Santiago de Cuba Province, during the third period of the provincial People's Government meeting, it was announced that only 6,000 tons of sugar is left to meet the province's sugar production goal. Other issues discussed at the meeting were tourism perspectives, the upcoming coffee harvest efforts, fruit harvest, and water supply.

Ciego de Avila Province has contributed to the national budget with approximately 1,200,000 million pesos from taxes from self-employed workers. This amount is higher than any collected before, and it could signify over 3,500,00 pesos by the end of the year. In the province, over 6,000 people work, regulated by Decree-Law 141. Of these, 46 percent are active workers, 30 percent are retired or incapacitated, and the rest are housewives and unemployed. The principal professions authorized are drivers (cocheros), fruit jam producers, hairdressers, craftsmen, and carpenters. The province plans to increase the number of inspectors who control and regulate proper enforcement of Decree-Law 141. (Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 19 Jul 94)

Dominican Republic

Red Cross on 'Yellow Alert' Over Possible Invasion

PA2107005094 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2333 GMT 20 Jul 94

[Text] Santo Domingo, 20 Jul (EFE)—The Red Cross today declared a "yellow alert" at the border between the Dominican Republic and Haiti.

Red Cross Director Maria Rosa Belliard said the measure was declared "to prepare any situation that may arise in light of a possible U.S. intervention in Haiti to remove the military."

The official affirmed that the International Red Cross Federation received permission from Haitian authorities to cross into Dominican territory in the case of a military intervention.

The international aid relief agency is asking Dominican, UN, and OAS authorities to grant permission to assist Haitians who "may be affected by the situation."

Belliard concluded "the Haitians' situation is very bad because of the lack of food."

Haiti

Richardson Discussions With Cedras 'Frank and Instructive'

FL2007230094 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1045 GMT 20 Jul 94

[Excerpt] Nothing was said about the meeting held on the evening of 18 July between General Cedras and U.S. Congressman Bill Richardson in Port-au-Prince. The representative from New Mexico who came to be advised on the situation in Haiti held discussions with Dominican President Joaquin Balaguer on the Haitian case. These discussions were described as productive.

During his visit to Haiti, Bill Richardson did not say much about his meeting with Gen. Cedras. The Democratic representative simply indicated that the discussions were extremely frank and instructive. Richardson explained that he reasserted his firm support for the process of restoring democracy to Haiti. The U.S. legislator also spoke with Ambassador Swing and the staff of the U.S. Embassy during his 24-hour visit to Port-au-Prince. The U.S. Embassy spokesman in Port-au-Prince indicated that Representative Richardson was not carrying any special message or ultimatum to Gen. Cedras from Washington. The ultimatum is the 14 warships surrounding Haiti. Stanley Schrager notes that Richardson wanted to communicate to Gen. Cedras that most U.S. congressmen favor the restoration of democracy to Haiti. [passage omitted]

It should be noted that U.S. Representative Bill Richardson left Port-au-Prince for the Dominican Republic by land. Richardson had visited Port-au-Prince last June, at which time he had met with representatives of human rights organizations, supporters of President-in-Exile Aristide, and a number of political personalities and members of the private sector. It should also be noted that an official of the Jonassaint government told us that the U.S. legislator Bill Richardson also met with Minister of Foreign Affairs Charles David during his stay in Haiti.

Unidentified Diplomat Views Resolving Crisis

FL2007223194 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1030 GMT 20 Jul 94

[Text] A foreign diplomat accredited to Haiti told AHP that the Haitian crisis cannot be solved so long as those responsible for the country remain in power, [words indistinct] that there are limits to the international community's patience. The diplomat, who wishes to remain anonymous, stated that no solution is possible without the return of the legitimate authorities, who were democratically elected on 16 December 1990. He went on to say that the Haitian de facto authorities know what they have to do to end the suffering of the Haitian population and insisted that the legitimate authorities will have to adopt measures that encourage dialogue among the various sectors of the nation.

Pro-Aristide Groups Condemn Possible Invasion

PA2107020394 Paris AFP in Spanish 0047 GMT 21 Jul 94

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 20 Jul (AFP)—Fifteen popular organizations supportive of exiled President Jean-Bertrand Aristide on Wednesday condemned any possible foreign military intervention, "especially by North America," in Haiti.

The organizations issued a joint statement criticizing the international community's position on the Haitian crisis and stating that an intervention would not resolve the Haitian problem.

They noted that the U.S. military intervention in 1915 was also staged "under the pretext of social progress and development."

"The many difficulties experienced by the Haitian people these days are the direct consequences of 19 years of U.S. occupation and 79 years of political, economic, and cultural oppression by U.S. imperialism in Haiti," the statement added.

According to the statement, "foreign intervention will reinforce U.S. control in Haiti and will protect the criminals of 30 September 1991 (date of the coup d'etat), who murdered 5,000 people."

Number of Boat People Down 'Drastically'

FL2007221294 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 20 Jul 94

[Text] The number of Haitian boat people intercepted at sea has dropped drastically. Yesterday, 235 boat people were repatriated to Port-au-Prince aboard a U.S. Coast Guard ship. A total of 16,000 boat people are being housed at the U.S. naval base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

PRD's Cardenas Refuses To Sign New Political Accord

PA2007130894 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 18 Jul 94 p 4

[Report by Armando Solis]

[Text] Torreon, Coahuila, 17 Jul—What we need now is full compliance with the commitments derived from the agreement signed by the four political parties on 27 January. This does not require any more signatures from presidential candidates, Cuauhtemoc Cardenas said when announcing that he definitely will not sign an agreement for civility and concord in democracy promoted by Government Secretary Jorge Carpizo.

Cardenas said his decision is firm on the agreement proposed by Carpizo—which has already been signed by the PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party] and PAN [National Action Party] candidates—and assumed "full responsibility" for its consequences.

He added: I believe it is absurd to promote an agreement that guarantees respect for the law. This cannot be subject to any kind of negotiations; it is an obligation for those of us who conduct ourselves within the legal framework. Anyone who violates the law should be punished.

Speaking in front of the monument to Hidalgo, Cardenas said the proposal made by Carpizo last Wednesday will not affect the electoral process, as those who decide to sign are only promising "to behave."

During the last day of his campaign swing through La Lagunera, Cardenas demanded that the government reaffirm its commitment to respect the election results and to make the necessary corrections to the voter lists resulting from irregularities and inconsistencies detected prior to the electoral process.

Once again, Cardenas asked Carpizo to do whatever is needed so that Mexicans can verify the final voter lists as soon as possible in the same venues where voting centers will be set up on 21 August. In that way, he said, the corresponding audits will be conducted by the citizens themselves.

Cardenas said that the Agreement for Civility, Concord, and Justice signed by nine registered political parties on 27 January represented progress but was not enough to promote laws guaranteeing clean elections. In addition, he said that agreement has only been partially observed.

Accompanied by Porfirio Munoz Ledo, national president of the PRD [Democratic Revolutionary Party], and Mario Saucedo, secretary general of the PRD, who traveled from Mexico City to join him, Cardenas referred to the appointment of Ricardo Franco Guzman as special prosecutor for electoral crimes.

"He does not inspire confidence, and I doubt anyone believes he has good intentions," Cardenas said. He expressed his skepticism at the possibility that Franco Guzman will handle electoral irregularities like the charges made against Carlos Hank Gonzalez or Manuel Tello Macias.

During his visit to Matamoros, Cardenas urged his followers to play an active role in the upcoming elections.

In that city, Tomas Compean Rincon publicly resigned his PT [Labor Party] membership and joined the PRD. He was PT candidate for assistant deputy for the Sixth District

Cardenas said the crisis in La Laguna is due to neglect of rural areas and the fact that peasants must rent land in order to pay for the right to water. This concentrates profitable land in a few hands.

Judging from the government's actions, there are really no good prospects, he said. He recalled that in that place, authorities in 1989 offered the Nueva Laguna Plan, which has shown no real progress.

Finally, Cardenas asked all those present to fight hard against corruption.

Article Questions PRI 'Political Hardening'

PA1907230794 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 15 Jul 94 pp 1, 8

[Article by Jaime Rivera Velazquez]

[Text] Over the past week, the Institutional Revolutionary Party [PRI] has shown signs of political hardening, and this can only create concern because of the possible effects on the current electoral process.

The first sign was the plan announced by PRI deputies—a plan which, as of the time that I was writing this, had not been ruled out—to reinterpret Article 407 of the Penal Code, which establishes as a crime and punishes the use of public resources by a political party.

Aside from the fact that the wording of the proposed reform leaves much to be desired from a legal standpoint, it is regrettable that they are seeking to emasculate these provisions approved only three months ago through interpretations and additional conditions that would give too much discretionary power to prosecutors and judges. The PRI legislators' argument that punishing public officials for intervening on behalf of a party or candidate violates their political rights is a fallacy that seeks to avoid the real issue. The undeniable fact is this: Many government officials and organizations have unduly used public resources to support the PRI, and this practice seriously impairs electoral competition. In fact, the problem was so bad that it created the need to combat such practices through new legal provisions, including penal measures.

Punishing those who use public resources for purposes other than public functions expressly established under

the law absolutely does not imply depriving state officials of their rights. The truth is that for several decades the government-PRI symbiosis made it seem natural that government organizations should place personnel and all kinds of material at the PRI's disposal. Politicians used to this are now finding it difficult to abide by these legal restrictions. This is the real reason why many PRI members want to reform the penal provisions on this matter.

Aside from any discussion on the wording and application of Article 407 of the Penal Code, the PRI reform initiative is designed to bring back an old vice, which today would only undermine the pre-electoral atmosphere and give new strength to forces that insist on destroying the legitimacy of the process in advance. If we take into account the extreme fragility of the people's trust in the honesty of the elections and the dark clouds of conflict and violence that loom over the elections, the PRI initiative is clearly untimely, imprudent, and, in the end, unproductive.

Another recent sign of PRI hardening, which also appears to be designed to put the brakes on encouraging political opening, was a statement by PRI leader Ignacio Pichardo Pagaza, who said there is no time for another debate among the presidential candidates. This lack-of-time argument does not even deserve repudiation. The five weeks that remain before the elections provide plenty of time, not only for one but for two debates. What is deplorable is that they are trying to eliminate by the stroke of a pen a promising step in the electoral process that seeks more democratic and modern paths.

Everyone, including the PRI, commented favorably on the debate as an undeniable sign of democratic progress. During the television debate, Zedillo kept claiming credit for calling for this meeting of ideas. Now it is said that "there is no more time." In other words, the PRI believes its candidate should not again appear before millions of citizens with other presidential candidates. This position reveals mistrust of the PRI candidate's ability to persuade voters. I am not sure whether a second debate would make it possible for Zedillo to present his program more effectively. Yet, I do not think he will profit whatsoever from giving the people the impression that the PRI candidate fears new setbacks because Diego Fernandez profited most from the first and, so far, only debate. A new debate would certainly be risky for all of the candidates. To preempt this debate with childlike arguments such as those from Pichardo, however, entails the greater risk of confirming before the voting public the image of insecurity and weakness that has persistently plagued the PRI substitute candidate.

The PRI's claims perhaps are not very important in and of themselves. After all, the elections will not be stopped just because there is no second debate, and penalizing those guilty of electoral offenses will not change radically because an interpretative paragraph is added to the Penal Code. The PRI's claims cause concern because they show signs of a fearful and closed-minded position on the part of the ruling party's leadership. Moreover, this position confirms the conservative leanings that PRI leaders have imposed on Zedillo's campaign. Apart from this behavior's probable effect on those voters who are deciding between the opposition and continuity—a continuity, which via Zedillo, allegedly is willing to reform—the surest impact of the PRI's political moves is the strengthening of the belief that the ruling party truly is not willing to accept equitable electoral competition, let alone run the risk of a democratic change in power. Unfortunately, this belief is now widespread throughout society.

Along these lines, the PRI will only succeed in reinforcing the arguments of those who are predicting disorderly elections and an inevitable post-election conflict. Therefore, the apocalyptic prophecy for 22 August finds allies in those who should be most interested in preventing it.

Guatemala

URNG Says Government Not Honoring Accord

PA2007195794 Guatemala City SIGLO VEINTIUNO in Spanish 17 Jul 94 p 39

["Political Statement" issued by the URNG's General Command: "In View of the Terrorist Escalation, Fulfillment; In View of the Confusion, Certainty"; place and date not given; paid advertisement]

[Text] A terrorist escalation has been unleashed in the past few weeks, an escalation that has intimidated, threatened, and created uncertainty for our people. It is absurd and paradoxical for this situation to exist after the government signed commitments at the negotiating table.

Because of the seriousness of the situation, the URNG General Command hereby expresses, to the local and international public, its flat and firm protest and demand to the government over the latter's repeated failure to honor the General Human Rights Agreement signed in Mexico City on 29 March 1994.

During these three and a half months, in various ways and through various means, both locally and internationally, the URNG [Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity] has expressed its concern over events that prove both the government's lack of political willingness and its refusal to comply with the letter of the agreements.

Apparently, the progress achieved and the signing of new agreements have exacerbated the positions and actions of those who oppose peace. This has also demonstrated the government's powerlessness or unwillingness to completely respect the agreement and to guarantee the continuity of the process.

As everyone knows, we are experiencing situations that bring to mind the worst days of repression and impunity.

Guatemalan society is disturbed for two reasons. The brutal actions that have been perpetrated create a climate of terror. An essential agreement, which must be complied with as agreed, is mocked, ignored, and violated.

The hope for a serious and deep-thinking negotiation process, which can lay the groundwork for solving the national crisis and eliminating the causes of the armed conflict, begin to vanish, and with good reason. The real question about what will happen to the other agreements, considering that this one, whose fulfillment is obligatory, has not been complied with, must be answered with uncertainty and skepticism.

The essential principle of any negotiation is the fulfillment of that which has been agreed upon; this is being rashly undermined. Certainty of the results is the prime reason for flexibility and accord. This is indisputable. The United Nations' failure so far to establish a commission to verify the fulfillment of this agreement aggravates the situation.

The URNG fully shares the Guatemalan people's concern, demands, and dissatisfaction with this situation. By making this concern and demands its own, the URNG firmly declares that it is impossible to keep negotiating if the minimum requirements established in the General Human Rights Agreement, which must be immediately enforced and verified, are not met.

This crucial time in the negotiation process requires a great sense of responsibility and participation from everyone, the government, Army, institutions, society, the international community, and particularly the Friendly Countries Group, the United Nations, and the URNG.

With regard to the Clarification Commission, we state:

It is important at this time to note a few things regarding the signature of the Clarification Commission Agreement. Much has been said and there has been a lot of disinformation on this topic of enormous importance.

The URNG General Command admits it has been unable to meet the just demands of the civilian sectors that have been adversely affected by the repression to hold individuals responsible for their actions. It deeply respects the suffering and frustration which they have expressed in this regard.

Bearing these feelings in mind, the URNG General Command believes the agreement contains positive elements, which if correctly interpreted and systematically and coherently applied, will contribute in an important manner to the principal objective: ending the impunity and preventing this situation from recurring.

The report released by an independent commission based on a thorough investigation and the explanation of the details of the human rights violations cannot disregard, even though names are not given, the responsibilities of those who implemented an atrocious policy, the effects of which brought pain and suffering to our people.

The existence of a Clarification Commission and the signing of an agreement on this topic, under these terms, does not preclude, hamper, or limit the inalienable and constitutional right of any offended person or institution to resort to the courts of justice.

This commission has been recognized both nationally and internationally. Its constitution has been supported, since the beginning of its preparatory work, by the international community. Therefore, it is an irreversible step and agreement, subject to verification.

In the last few days reports have been published regarding the actions of certain authorities aimed at erasing and making evidence of what has happened in the past disappear. The URNG has reliable information

on how files are being made to disappear files and how available information has been restricted.

We denounce these actions as very serious and as aimed at obstructing and impairing what has already been agreed upon.

The Guatemalan people's right to know the truth has been recognized in this agreement. It is the job of all parties who signed it and of the witnesses who were present, as well as of the civilian society, to make this agreement lead us to learning more about what really took place.

[Signed] URNG General Command: Commander Rolando Moran, Commander Pablo Monsanto, Commander Gaspar Ilom, and Carlos Gonzalez, secretary general of the PGT [Guatemalan Labor Party] [newspaper publishes signatures over printed names]

Honduras

Government Considers Joining Peacekeeping Force in Haiti

PA2007163894 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1045 GMT 20 Jul 94

[Report on interview with Foreign Affairs Minister Ernesto Paz Aguilar by Carlos Medrano; place and date not given; from "The Morning Paper" newscast]

[Text] [Medrano] The Honduran Government is considering the possibility of joining the Blue Helmet peacekeeping forces to return peace to Haiti following a unilateral [as heard] invasion of Haiti by other governments. Foreign Relations Minister Ernesto Paz Aguilar has talked about this issue.

[Begin recording] [Paz] On 15 July, the UN Security Council approved a resolution instructing the secretary general to inform member states about the operation that will take place in Haiti within the next few days.

[Medrano] Is it true that Honduras will be among the 12 countries that will allegedly invade Haiti?

[Paz] We must judge this issue in its proper perspective. The UN secretary general is tasked with reporting to the member states and inviting them to participate in this operation. It is a voluntary participation. Honduras replied it will consider its participation; that is, the Executive Branch will make the decision, and we will study it in due time.

[Medrano] However, Honduras' initial posit on was that it would not intervene in Haiti.

[Paz] We refuse to accept an invasion, we condemn any unilateral intervention. This is a different issue. We are condemning unilateral intervention by the United States. We believe such intervention will fail to solve the problem. However, we would be willing to consider humanitarian intervention by the United Nations.

[Medrano] Humanitarian, not military, intervention.

[Paz] That's right. When the United Nations sends Blue Helmet troops, they do not confront any other army. This happens in every country because UN troops are peacekeeping troops, called buffer troops, that do not wear combat gear. They only step in to prevent rival forces from clashing. I repeat, UN troops will never confront the army of a member state.

[Medrano] Is there any chance that Honduras will join these UN forces?

[Paz] I believe there are possibilities because Honduras was a Security Council member and because the UN secretary general has asked us to consider this option.

[Medrano] Are we referring to the UN Blue Helmets? What does this mean?

[Paz] That is correct; there is no other choice. You know that a coup took place in Haiti three years ago and that all actions to restore peace have failed. The UN intervention is the last option we have.

[Medrano] The military regime [words indistinct] war, and bullets may be used to oust the military strongmen.

[Paz] I repeat: the intervention would take place within the framework of the United Nations, and this is why we are holding intense negotiations. The Haitian Government is sending [words indistinct] to the United Nations and Washington, D.C., which are currently holding intense negotiations. I repeat: the last resource we have is to resort to the measures stipulated in the UN Charter. [end recording]

Nicaragua

European Union Plans Peasant Assistance Programs

94P20996A

[Editorial Report] Managua LA TRIBUNA in Spanish on 27 June on page 7A reports that the European Union is spending $1.5 million on agricultural and livestock projects in San Rafael, La Concordia, and Yali. The projects, which target small producers, include a pig raising program to benefit five families, donations of 100 head of cattle to 12 ranchers, and planting coffee trees on 100 manzanas belonging to 10 coffee growers. The European Union is also donating food to needy peasants, according to the article.

Coffee Growing Hampered by Lack of Financing

94P20996B

[Editorial Report] Managua LA TRIBUNA in Spanish on 30 June on page 6A reports that the National Coffee Commission's (Concafe) Annual Coffee Growing Plan is "about to collapse" due to the lack of financing. The article indicates that the National Development Bank (BND) has

lent only 8.3 million cordobas out of 158.3 million designated for short-term credit. Concafe President David Robleto insisted that "lending must be timely." Concafe General Manager Tomas Valdes pointed out that the BND finances $60 per quintal while the minimum should be $80, the average price for coffee on the international market during the last harvest. According to the article, the BND has lent only 38.8 million cordobas in long-term loans out of a total 82.5 million, thus slowing down the coffee renewal program, which envisions planting 50,000 manzanas over four years.

Numbers of Youths Returning From U.S. Reported

94P20996C

[Editorial Report] Managua BARRICADA in Spanish of 26 June on page 1 reports tha 41,888 youths, both men and women, between the ages of 15 and 19 returned to Nicaragua from the United States between 1989 and 1993, according to the immigration office of the Government Ministry. An additional 70,148 youths between the ages of 20 and 24 have also returned.

Panama

Sabotage Suspected in Explosion of Aircraft

PA2007162794 Panama City TVN Television Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 20 Jul 94

[Text] Panamanian authorities have already voiced their suspicion that the plane that exploded in the air with 21 people aboard—most of them Jewish businessmen in the Colon Free Zone—was the target of an attack. Anonymous sources have told TVN Television that traces of lead have been found in the aircraft's wreckage; this suggests sabotage.

Civil Aeronautics Director Comments

PA2007165894 Panama City TVN Television Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 20 Jul 94

[Report by Luis Manuel Botello from Marcos Gelabert Airport in Paitilla, Panama City]

[Text] Minutes ago, Civil Aeronautics Director Zosimo Guardia left Marcos Gelabert Airport in Paitilla aboard a helicopter to go to the site of the Alas plane accident. Before leaving, he made the following statements to the media:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] What do you plan to do?

[Guardia] I will travel to the accident site in Colon for last-minute coordination, and if there is any confusion, I will clarify the procedures that must be followed.

[Reporter] What is the latest on this?

[Guardia] The latest is that some bodies have been taken to France Field Airport. Their transfer to Panama is being arranged.

[Reporter] Has the black box been found?

[Guardia] No, this kind of plane does not have a black box; it does not have a flight recorder or voice recorder. It was a small plane that does not have such devices.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct]

[Guardia] This morning we invited the factory that made this plane—a Brazilian factory—to participate in the investigation; we want them to send technicians. We also invited the manufacturers of the engine and even U.S. experts.

[Reporter] Will any security measures be adopted? What measures have been adopted recently at Paitilla airport?

[Guardia] You know that the problem of security at the airports—not only of the one in Paitilla but in all airports in the country—has long been latent. I have insisted on this issue, and you have echoed this concern in the media. I think that security measures must be stepped up a little more. I have insisted on this. This has not been done to the extent that I want, due to budget constraints. Security measures are as good as they can be with available resources.

[Reporter] Why is security so lax at Paitilla given that it is an international airport, when there is much tighter security at domestic and international airports in other countries?

[Guardia] Remember that two years ago Paitilla was not what it is today. Paitilla has grown a lot. It is an airport that was not designed for as many flights as there are today. We have spent one year examining security measures for Paitilla. We have brought in foreign experts for this purpose, and they have made certain recommendations that we are trying to implement. Perhaps the next government will finish implementing them.

[Reporter] When will the first bodies arrive at Paitilla?

[Guardia] I do not know because I do not have direct contact with the area at this time, but I suppose that this afternoon.

[Reporter] All bodies have been recovered?

[Guardia] At this time I have no confirmation of that either. [end recording]

Voice Recorder Recovered

PA2007202494 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1911 GMT 20 Jul 94

[Interview with Civil Aeronautics director Zosimo Guardia by unidentified reporters at Marcos Gelabert Airport in Paitilla, Panama City on 20 July—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Mr. Director, what is the situation with regard to the people involved in this accident?

[Guardia] A few minutes ago all the bodies involved in the accident were recovered. The last bodies are being transferred to France Field to be subsequently transferred to Panama City.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct]

[Guardia] When I left, the prosecutor still had to decide if he would transfer them by land or by air. I do not know what they have decided; I am going to contact Colon.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] the accident?

[Guardia] Not yet, there is not even a preliminary report yet. We expect to have this in two or three days.

[Reporter] Nevertheless, an attack has not been ruled out?

[Guardia] No possibility is being ruled out. As always in these cases, until we have enough knowledge about what occurred, no possibility is ruled out.

[Reporter] Will security be reinforced at various airports throughout the country?

[Guardia] I have always tried to implement this; I have been requesting this. I believe that this government or the next has to step up security in the nation's airports.

[Reporter] Do you believe that by this afternoon all the bodies will arrive?

[Guardia] That is right, they should arrive this afternoon in Panama City.

[Reporter] About what time so that [words indistinct] at sundown?

[Guardia] I would say anytime, from this moment on. This depends on what the prosecutor decides, if they will be transported by air or by land. I could be in one hour, it could be in two or three hours.

[Reporter] Will the press have access?

[Guardia] The press has always had access to all the investigations [words indistinct].

[Reporter] What about lead residues that have been found?

[Guardia] I do not have any knowledge of the technical information right now. I am waiting for the report from the investigators at the crash site. They are collecting the information that will serve to draw up the preliminary report.

[Reporter] Have all the bodies been taken to Colon?

[Guardia] When I left, four were still missing.

[Reporter] What is this box here? Is it for investigation?

[Guardia] That is the aircraft's voice recorder [preceding two words in English] that we have recovered. I want something to be very clear about this box. The voice recorder [preceding two words in English] in this airplane, is not mandatory, that is, it is not obligatory. This plane had one because this device had been added, in addition to the required equipment. These small aircraft are not obliged to have one. This aircraft had one. Therefore we are going to have it analyzed to see if we can hear a conversation or something that will give us some indication of what occurred during the flight's last minutes.

Families Tie Crash to Argentine Attack

PA2007173094 Panama City TVN Television Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 20 Jul 94

[Report by Luz Maria Noli in the Panama City studios and Juan Manuel Botello at the Marcos A. Gelabert Airport in Paitilla, Panama City—live]

[Text] [Noli] Have Civil Aeronautics authorities not yet mentioned to the media their unofficial fears and suspicions that this might have been an attack or sabotage?

[Botello] No, Luz Maria, no one dares say this or even speculate, even though the relatives believe it was an attack against the Jewish community. They have connected this with the attack a few days ago in Argentina. Nevertheless, the authorities do not want to say this right now.

We have also learned that the relatives are bringing in experts from Israel to conduct a thorough investigation of what occurred here.

Experts Find Lead Traces

PA2007205294 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1913 GMT 20 Jul 94

[Report by Francisco Rojas F.]

[Excerpts] Colon (Panama), 20 Jul (ACAN-EFE)—Explosives experts have found traces of lead, which could indicate sabotage, in the luggage of 21 people, mostly Jewish businessmen, who died on 19 July in one of the largest air disasters in this city on Panama's Caribbean coast.

In the early hours of the morning, even before 80 percent of the victims' remains had been recovered, National Police explosives experts began searching for clues that could confirm "criminal hands" caused the accident.

Security personnel at the accident site admitted to finding lead "splinters" in some briefcases belonging to the Colon Free Zone businessmen, who were returning to Panama City at 1700 (2200 GMT) on 19 July.

A pilot and air security expert said at the airport: "We must determine if the explosion was caused by dynamite, C4, or a manometric [marometrica] bomb," adding: "I am a aircraft mechanic, and I know the subject. Aviation

has been my life, and I believe it was an nonmechanical (terrorist) explosion... let's drop it there." [passage omitted]

Police sources told ACAN-EFE that the condition of the plane's wreckage leads one to believe a bomb could have triggered its sudden explosion.

Israeli Envoy Requests More Security

PA2007195594 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 20 Jul 94 p E-16

[Report by Juan Manuel Diaz C.]

[Text] Ya'aqov Brakha, Israeli ambassador to Panama, said yesterday that his diplomatic office has asked national authorities to reinforce security in view of the possibility of an attack similar to the attack that left 28 people dead in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Brakha pointed out Panamanian authorities confirmed they will guarantee the security of Israeli citizens living in Panama and of their diplomatic office.

He added it is possible that Islamic extremist groups perpetrated the terrorist attack, but Israeli authorities have yet to confirm this charge.

The diplomat believes the terrorist attacks are trying to undermine the peace process undertaken by Israeli authorities and the PLO. He emphasized that Latin American countries must work with Israeli intelligence authorities to confront this type of attack, which are trying to create havoc.

He also said world governments must "carefully check" extremist Islamic centers in Europe, Asia, Latin America, and other places to make sure they conduct only peaceful religious activities.

In addition, he said third parties might have helped the terrorists plant the car bomb, which contained 70 kg of explosives, leaving many people dead and injured.

The Israeli ambassador reported his government has given instructions to request adequate help from countries where Jews live in order to protect them from these violent attacks, adding that his government has sent a plane with 50 rescue specialists to help locate any survivor who may be buried in the debris left by the explosion.

Ambassador Brakha also pointed out that dogs trained to search for survivors and psychologists who will help people overcome the shock are among the members of the team sent by his government.

Official: U.S. Pressured for End to Visas for Asians

PA2007200194 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 20 Jul 94 p 1

[Report by Esteban Huertas G.]

[Text] A high-ranking National Immigration Directorate official yesterday assured that the U.S. Government pressured Panama into suspending the issuing of visas to Chinese and Hindu nationals, since these people were then going on to North America.

The source added that the goal of this action by U.S. authorities is to avoid an influx of nationals from the Asian Continent to North America.

With regard to this situation, Antonio Dominguez, director of the Immigration Department, said that the "processing of visas for Chinese and Hindu nationals was suspended on orders from higher authorities."

When questioned about the U.S. role in the suspension of visas for these citizens, Dominguez said that "he had no knowledge of the reason behind the measures." Nevertheless, he stressed that the authorities "are conducting a series of investigations of the granting of visas to Chinese and Hindu nationals. [no closing quotation mark as published]

Dominguez said that the suspension of visas for citizens from the People's Republic of China [China Popular; as published] and India will adversely affect "movement in the Colon Free Zone, as this depends a great deal on merchants" from these two nations.

Dominguez said that the influx of Chinese citizens to the national territory from January 1990 to this year totals approximately 9,000, of which only approximately 800 have left the nation." [no opening quotation mark as published]

President To Consult on Copyright Law; Media Comments

PA2007142394 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Report by Fernando Fernandez; from the "RPC Television News" newscast; all speakers identified by caption]

[Text] The copyright bill approved by the National Assembly in its third debate may be changed if the president vetoes it. He has begun to consult with the different sectors involved. On Monday morning, he held separate meetings with representatives of the APR [Panamanian Broadcasting Association] and the Association of Authors and Composers, seeking a consensus before either approving or vetoing it.

According to the APR, the law jeopardizes the media since it gives administrative authorities the right to get involved in the activities of the media and to set jail terms even for administrative mistakes.

[Begin recording] [APR representative Fernando Nunes Fabrera] We are optimistic that he will declare it unconstitutional. But if for any reason the president decides not to, media associations have the constitutional right

to ask the Supreme Court of Justice to rule on those issues that are clearly unconstitutional.

[APR representative Guillermo Antonio Adames] We are not categorically opposed to a copyright law. To the contrary, we believe a copyright law should be implemented in Panama. What we cannot allow is that a law should imperil the media and place us in the hands of outside interests, something that could affect from the smallest to the largest media. [end recording]

Upon leaving their meeting with the president, members of the Association of Authors and Composers did not seem totally opposed to the idea of returning the bill to the full National Assembly for changes.

[Begin Carlos Della Togna, president of the Association of Authors and Composers, recording] Our position is that we would accept that if it is necessary. [end recording]

Television station owners agreed to draft a document that will allow the president to study the problems the copyright law would pose.

[Begin Fernando Eleta Almaran, spokesman for television stations, recording] We have pledged to do that work, which I find advisable because the idea is not to deny anyone his rights but quite the opposite. There can be no articles that allow abuses in the future. [end recording]

President Endara said he will study all issues and will announce his decision next month.

Argentina

Menem Addresses Nation on AMIA Bombing

PY2107003294 Buenos Aires Argentina Televisora Color Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 20 Jul 94

[Speech to the nation by President Carlos Menem from the Presidential Conference Room of Government House in Buenos Aires—live or recorded]

[Text] Sisters and brothers of my fatherland: All of us have received a nasty blow. Madness, intolerance, and the irrational hate that still contaminate humanity like a biblical curse has once again chosen Argentina as a target for terror.

All of us ask why. Why the hate, why the violence, why Argentina, a land of peace, a land where social and racial integration are one of our prides, has once again been marked to be drenched in blood?

We asked ourselves this same question two years ago when faced with the same barbarism. Why?

I do not wish to spar with those who use the politics of death. I do not wish to be disrespectful of our or their relatives. But yes, we must stress that from the time of the attack against the Israeli Embassy to the present time, we have been making every possible effort to find the culprits.

We are using our best men. We are working with international intelligence, and we have not been successful up to the present time. But we have not given up. The beasts are difficult to find, here or anywhere in the world.

In the spirit of grief that unites all Argentines, I wish to ask for forgiveness for this lamentable episode, and commit myself to redoubled efforts to clarify this new attack, while at the same time asking for help from all the countries in the world, because this attack is our problem, but at the same time it is a problem of humanity as a whole.

In lashing out at the Argentine-Israeli Mutual Association [AMIA], the assassins wanted to lash out at the work and solidarity of the Israeli community in Argentina.

They are mistaken. Even before the grieving is over, the AMIA is again working with the same strength that has characterized it during so many years in each city, in each village where there is need.

The Jewish people have been lashed out at 1,000 times, and 1,000 times it has overcome its suffering.

This is the example that I wish to highlight tonight. The only way to overcome hate and violence is with love, unity, work, and effort.

This is also my call to the Argentine people, divested of partisanship, with the same spirit of solidarity of those who worked incessantly to help the victims, with the same happiness with each rescue, with the same grief for each dead or wounded person.

I also guarantee my people that we will not lower our arms; we will continue to struggle with the same faith for a better Argentina.

I believe that I can understand all Argentines, no matter their race or religion.

And to end this message, I address my Jewish brothers, saying to them: In your grief, I am also a victim.

Thank you very much and God bless you.

FBI To Join Investigation Into Bomb Attack

PY2007232994 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1429 GMT 20 Jul 94

[Text] Buenos Aires, 20 Jul (NA)—On 20 July, Interior Minister Carlos Ruckauf disclosed that FBI officials will cooperate with the Argentine intelligence services probing the attack on the Argentine-Israeli Mutual Association [AMIA].

Ruckauf reported that besides FBI officials and Israeli representatives, who have already arrived in Buenos Aires, members of the U.S. explosives investigation division will also participate in this endeavor.

The interior minister made this announcement in a brief news conference he gave when leaving General San Martin theater, where he opened the Second National Conference on Science and Technology Teaching.

In response to a question about what objectives the Security Secretariat headed by Brigadier General Andres Antonietti (RE)—who will be installed in office this afternoon—will pursue, Ruckauf said that "we are seeking to coordinate an efficient running of security organizations to counteract these events linked to terrorism or federal crimes."

The minister denied that the government had any previous information on the attack against the AMIA headquarters. He said: "We do not have any information on any warnings before the attack."

Ruckauf said that a few days earlier, he talked with Israeli Ambassador Yitzhaq Aviran, in Bariloche "practically without any security, about launching a congress against discrimination. We could not forecast something such as this attack at all."

Ruckauf said the Argentine-Israeli Associations Delegation (DAIA) demanded a clarification of the incident, adding that "naturally, we all want to clarify what happened."

Israeli Official Meets Menem, Views Attack on AMIA

PY2107024494 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1634 GMT 20 Jul 94

[Text] Buenos Aires, 20 Jul (NA)—Dov Schmorak, under secretary for Latin American affairs at the Israeli Foreign Ministry, today said he has no proof "there is a terrorist base in Argentina," and asserted that his country "did not suspect this attack."

Schmorak believes the attack perpetrated on 18 July against the Argentine-Israeli Mutual Association [AMIA] "was the result of the terrorist activities of some small marginal groups inside Argentina or the initiative of non-Argentine people who counted on the cooperation of some local people."

The Israeli official made these comments at the end of a meeting he held with President Carlos Menem at Government House in the company of Yitzhaq Aviran, Israeli ambassador to Argentina.

Schmorak added that, in his opinion, "the attack is not linked to any action being taken by the Argentine Government at the international level."

The two Israeli officials were received by the Argentine president at Casa Rosada. Foreign Minister Guido di Tella also attended the meeting.

In remarks to journalists accredited to Government House, Schmorak said that "the danger represented by terrorism exists everywhere in the world." In this regard, he mentioned "a new attack conducted in Panama," where an airplane of the Alas Airlines, which was carrying 18 Israelis, was downed.

He added that he has "no proof there is a terrorist base in Argentina," and clarified that his government "has some ideas to convey to the Argentine Government because the attack had great magnitude and was not merely the murder of a few people."

The Israeli diplomat pointed out that President Menem has expressed "on behalf of the entire Argentine Republic, a most absolute and total rejection for this attack, which he deemed criminal, and promised to do his utmost to thoroughly investigate the attack and find the true culprits."

Schmorak also said that Argentina "is not less secure for the Jews than any other country in the world." He admitted that the "sickness of anti-Semitism exists throughout the world."

He said that "proof of this sickness is not only an attack in which people are killed but also the swastikas that are painted on Jewish homes or the Jewish tombs that are destroyed in cemeteries."

Federal Police Superintendent, Deputy Replaced

PY2107005394 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1916 GMT 20 Jul 94

[Text] Buenos Aires, 20 Jul (NA)—Federal Police Chief Jorge Passero and Federal Police Deputy Chief Luis Beltran Varela had a sudden and short meeting with the interior minister this afternoon.

The police chiefs did not make any comment at the end of the meeting at Government House, although some sources mentioned the possibility of changes at the police command.

It is presumed that Interior Minister Carlos Ruckauf will give more information on the situation during a news conference a few minutes from now.

It was known that shortly before going to see the minister, Passero and Beltran had a long meeting with the other Federal Police chiefs and the most senior police superintendents.

Federal Police Superintendent Jorge Passero and Federal Police Deputy Superintendent Luis Beltran Varela submitted their resignation this afternoon.

The announcement was confirmed by Federal Police sources shortly before 1530 [1830 GMT].

It was officially announced that Interior Minister Carlos Ruckauf named Superintendent Adrian Juan Pelacci as new Federal Police chief, replacing Jorge Passero, who resigned.

Ruckauf made the announcement during a news conference at the Coat of Arms Hall this afternoon.

Ruckauf said that the new deputy chief was Superintendent Pablo Baltasar Garcia.

"My first instructions to the new police chiefs was to make sure that all Jewish schools in the country open their doors as usual on 25 July," the minister said.

Shortly before the news conference, government sources mentioned that Superintendent Roberto Gonzalez could replace Juan Beltran Varela, although Ruckauf finally chose Garcia.

Community Security, Protection Secretariat Created

PY2007212394 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1142 GMT 20 Jul 94

[Text] Buenos Aires, 20 Jul (NA)—The executive branch has issued a drecree creating the Secretariat for the Security and Protection of the Community, designating Brigadier Andres Antonietti as head of the new office. This was one of the immediate repercussions of the attack against the AMIA [Argentine-Israeli Mutual Association] building.

President Carlos Menem himself made the announcement yesterday afternoon, after several rumors circulated about a new impulse for his project to install a national security "supra-secretariat."

"The decision was made yesterday (Monday), but I did not want to make the announcement in advance to prevent the organ from being strongly attacked before it starts operating," the president said.

The new secretariat will advise the presidency in areas concerning internal security, while the interior and defense ministers will provide all the human and material resources that are requested by the secretariat.

Media Secretary Raul Burzaco, who announced the respective decree at the Olivos residence, said the new secretariat has the power to use all the security forces under the command of the Interior and Defense Ministries, but from the budget viewpoint, such forces still depend on those ministries.

The new secretariat will take over the functions of the Internal Security Council and of the Under Secretariat for Interior Security, whose chief Hugo Franco resigned yesterday.

Burzaco said the decree will be included in the bill that will be submitted to Congress to amend the current Internal Security Law.

The official said the new secretariat "can be the first step toward the creation of an interior security ministry," after the reform of the Constitution authorizes the opening of more portfolios.

Burzaco said the day on which Antonietti will be installed will be announced within the next few hours.

The decree creating the new secretariat says in its whereas clauses that in light of the reiterated criminal actions tha fall within federal court jurisdiction, among them the terrorist attack against the AMIA building, "it is necesssary to optimize the use of material and human resources to fight crime." Antonietti will thus be able to request, when circumstances justify it, the action by intelligence organs and will be able to summon federal police, border police, and coast guard personnel, despite the fact that each of these organizations will remain under its respective portfolio.

As a result of the creation of this new organization, Under Secretariat for Interior Security Hugo Franco yesterday afternoon tendered his resignation to Interior Minister Carlos Ruckauf.

The deliberations for the creation of the Secretariat for the Security and Protection of the Community began after Ruckauf's return from the United States. After meeting with Interior Secretary Alberto Iribarne, Ruckauf took a helicopter to the Olivos residence. Ruckauf, SIDE [Secretariat for State Intelligence] chief Hugo Anzorreguy, Secretary General Eduardo Bauza, and Buenos Aires Governor Eduardo Duhalde met at the Olivos residence at noon. The so-called Crisis Committee, Defense Minister Oscar Camilion, and the president analyzed, for approximately two and a half hours, the investigations into the attack on the Israeli association building.

They declared a recess at 1500 and Ruckauf and Anzorreguy headed for government house to continue analyzing the subject, while Duhalde, Bauza and Camilion left the presidential residence.

At 1930, Bauza confirmed the designation of Antonietti, who performed as security secretary in the federal intervention in Santiago del Estero. At the same time, Menem made the same announcement over a metropolitan radio station, outlining the functions of the new secretariat.

After announcing the designation of Antonietti, Burzaco reported that Guillermo Seita accepted the post of media secretary that Menem offered to him on Friday.

UCR President: Bombing 'Barbarous Spectacle'

PY2107010994 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2014 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Text] Santa Fe, 18 Jul (NA)—Radical [Radical Civic Union, UCR] Party President Raul Alfonsin has said the attack against the Argentine-Israeli Mutual Association (AMIA) was a "barbarous spectacle of irrationality." Alfonsin said that as a citizen he shares the "mourning and indignation" for the incident.

The UCR leader stressed that as a political leader "I think those of us with responsibility over the nation have the imperative need to analyze what is happening. [no closing quotation mark as received]

The former president said he was "dismayed" by the attack against the AMIA center, adding that he did not have words to describe his feelings "at this barbarous spectacle of irrationality, violence, and pain."

Alfonsin said "we must all find some way to demonstrate our total and absolute repudiation of this cruel episode that threatens our coexistence for the second time."

Alfonsin said: "The only sure border in today's world is a community that is strong because of its pluralism, its democratic education, and its respect for freedoms and human rights."

The UCR president and convention delegate issued a communique saying we need a community "with the courage and the capacity to enforce the law whenever anyone dares affect the life and peace of the men and women who are part of it."

Alfonsin explained that the attack "occurs precisely when there is progress toward peace in the Middle East." The UCR leader said "here, for the second time, we have an episode that deeply shakes Argentina's society and particularly the Jewish community."

Deputies Want To Question Interior Minister on Attack

PY2007172794 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0012 GMT 20 Jul 94

[Text] Buenos Aires, 19 Jul (NA)—The blocs of UCR [Radical Civic Union] and Grand Front [FG] deputies today submitted draft resolutions requesting the interpellation of Interior Minister Carlos Ruckauf in connection with the attack that destroyed the AMIA [Argentine Israeli Mutual Association] building.

The UCR request for the interpellation states that "society as a whole demands an explanation," wondering how the attack "was staged so easily, while security organs were motionless."

The Grand Front demanded that Ruckauf and State Intelligence Secretary Hugo Anzorreguy explain "the security measures that were adopted to safeguard the Jewish community in Argentina."

FG lawmakers want to know whether intelligence work was undertaken after the attack on the Israeli Embassy, whether any progress has been made in clearing up that attack, and whether SIDE [Secretariat for State Intelligence] has intensified its actions to prevent this type of terrorist attack.

In the meantime, the UCR rejected the government sector's contention that the opposition had "jumped" on the attack to criticize the government.

"It is not a minor event. It would be unforgivable to search for political advantages from an event of such aberrant nature," the draft resolution states.

'Terrorist Commando' Said Responsible for Attack

PY2107025594 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0112 GMT 21 Jul 94

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 20 Jul (NA) — Sources close to the investigation today revealed that an Argentine terrorist commando with logistical and financial support from abroad is presumably responsible for the attack against the seat of the Argentine-Israeli Mutual Association [AMIA].

According to what has been learned, there is a total blackout regarding the matter; within 2 days, the investigators could have more precise data on the perpetrators of the terrible incident.

Due to the logical secrecy surrounding the case, this is the only data that was obtained tonight, although it was also learned that there are approximately 100 dead if the bodies that have already appeared are counted together with the number of people that the experts believe are still beneath the rubble.

If this hypothesis stands firm, then the reports that point to members of the Lebanese fundamentalist group Hizballah (the Party of God) as being responsible for the blowing up of the AMIA building will turn out to be groundless, although the financing of the attack could have a part in the operation.

Since it was learned that a bomb had been the cause of the disaster, the investigation was dedicated exclusively to a possible connection with Muslim fundamentalists. [passage omitted]

Taxi Driver Gives Evidence Against 'German Couple'

PY2007191294 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1559 GMT 20 Jul 94

[Text] Buenos Aires, 20 Jul (NA)—A taxi driver identified as Jorge testified this morning at the court presided over by Federal Judge Juan Jose Galeano, who is conducting the investigation into the attack on the Argentine Israeli Mutual Association (AMIA) building.

The driver may have supplied valuable information in the case, as early on the day of the attack he took a German couple from the Plaza Hotel to 600 Pasteur St. where he then drove slowly past the front of the AMIA building before bringing his passengers back to the hotel.

Despite the tight secrecy surrounding the case, it has been reported that the witness testified before Maria Susana Spina, the judge's main clerk, whom he told that after dropping his passengers at the hotel, he again saw them later near the Sheraton Hotel.

It has been reported that for security reasons the name of the witness will not be disclosed.

Moroccan Citizen Held in Bombing Released

PY2007183394 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1557 GMT 20 Jul 94

[Text] Buenos Aires, 20 Jul (NA)—It has been learned from police sources that Moroccan citizen El Kabil Talcan, who had been arrested in connection with the attack on the AMIA [Argentine Israeli Mutual Association] building, was released today.

El Kabil Talcan was released "for lack of merit," while Iraqi citizen Adnan Mohammed Yousif, who was arrested on 18 July in Paso de los Libres, will appear before Federal Judge Juan Jose Galeano within the next few hours.

TELAM Reports 'Nuclear Device' Used in Bombing

PY2007231094 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 20 Jul 94 p 19

[Text] "It is a bunch of drivel." This was the brief reply of an expert consulted by CLARIN regarding the report that was disseminated on 19 July by the official news agency TELAM indicating that "a small nuclear device of unknown design" was the type of bomb that demolished the Argentine-Israeli Mutual Association [AMIA] building on 18 July.

Dispatch No. 682 of that agency adds that the bomb that demolished the Israeli Embassy on 17 March 1992 was also of a nuclear origin, and that "this conclusion had been supported by the existence of radioactivity found in the victims of the explosion and localized in small, but sufficient, quantities to refute the use of conventional explosives."

The sources cited by TELAM are "security force experts," although it is true that up to last night no one had made an official statement.

Regarding the attack against the Israeli Embassy 24 months ago, one of the hypotheses indicated the use of the explosive C-4, a substance that is used largely by the U.S. Armed Forces and that is widely known in the Middle East. Another hypothesis of the investigators indicates the use of TNT and pentrite.

Government sources last night expressed concern regarding the information that had been disseminated by TELAM indicating the use of a nuclear device against the AMIA building, because "it could be the origin of a situation of general panic."

The experts that were consulted by CLARIN tend to believe that ammonium and nitroglycerine and components of various types of plastic explosive, including gelignite, were used in the 18 July attack.

Regarding the traces of radioactivity that were found in the bodies of several of the victims, those of the 1992 and 18 July attacks, the experts have a perfectly normal explanation: "Those persons could have been undergoing a thyroid study with nuclear liquids, vesicular scintigraphy [centellogramas] exams, or kidney analyses, without ruling out tumor therapy with nuclear medicine."

Also, there might have been radioisotopes, which are used in nuclear medicine, in the AMIA building that were dispersed due to the force of the explosion and ended up in the bodies of the unfortunate victims.

The final word will come from the investigation that is still under way, but this does not stop the responsible experts from terming the dispatch that reported the use of a "nuclear" device as "madness."

CNEA Denies 'Nuclear Explosives' Used

PY2107013694 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2315 GMT 20 Jul 94

[Text] Buenos Aires, 20 Jul (NA)—The National Atomic Energy Commission (CNEA) today denied that "nuclear explosives" were used in the attack against the seat of the Argentine-Israeli Mutual Association [AMIA], and it dismissed the "danger of radioactive contamination in the zone of the disaster."

Thus, the CNEA overruled the alarming 19 July news report that indicated the bomb that caused the disaster at the AMIA seat on 18 July was "a low-powered nuclear explosive."

The organization stressed that "these reports have no rationale," and it highlighted the fact that no "abnormal readings from the radiology viewpoint" had been registered in the zone.

"The readings of the radiation levels in the zone of the attack are normal; therefore, it cannot be presupposed that the attack was carried out with a nuclear device," the CNEA reported in a communique.

The CNEA also reported that the Security Section of the Fire Brigade Superintendency of the Federal Police carry out periodic controls of the levels of radioactivity in the zone "since just after the attack occurred."

"The readings are made by the Natural Radiation Fund, and there is nothing that presupposes that the attack was carried out with nuclear explosives," the CNEA communique concludes.

Menem Postpones Visit To RSA, To Take Vacation

PY2007190694 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 16 Jul 94 p 2

[Text] President Carlos Menem yesterday had to unexpectedly postpone his official visit to the Republic of South Africa [RSA] because his South African counterpart, Nelson Mandela, will be undergoing a cataract operation.

The Argentine Foreign Ministry yesterday received the news from the RSA. Both governments have thus agreed to first postpone the visit, which had been set for 1 August, and then set a new date as soon as possible.

Menem was planning to visit the RSA to meet Mandela, and thus become the first Latin American leader to meet with the African Nacional Congress leader, who became president of the RSA following the abolition of the apartheid regime (racial discrimination).

Furthermore, Menem himself announced yesterday at the cabinet meeting that he had decided to take a one-week vacation. Without giving further explanations, Menem smiled and said that he had decided to take a break in his activities, but that he was planning to stay in Buenos Aires.

Menem announced that there would be no cabinet meeting on 24 July. Although no official announcement has been made, his scheduled meeting with Santa Cruz Governor Nestor Kirchner would thus be postponed as well.

Menem also recommended to his ministers that they follow his example, and that those who could should also take a winter break.

Bolivia

Government Deports 32 Cubans Back to Peru

PY2107032394 La Paz Television Nacional Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 21 Jul 94

[Text] The Cubans who entered the country illegally were deported today.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] The Cubans who were in our country left the Libertador Hotel for the Peruvian border early this morning.

[National Immigration Director Victoria Valdiviezo] In compliance with orders from the national government and legal immigration regulations, we helped the 32 Cubans leave the country through Desaguadero.

[Reporter] The immigration director said that as long as an individual is not declared a refugee, he can get assistance from the Immigration Directorate. This is why the directorate helped them stay in the Libertador Hotel. The question is: Who paid for the hotel?

[Valdiviezo] They were able to get the money by calling their relatives living in Miami. All of them paid for their stay in the hotel and as they [words indistinct] refugees we gave them the option to go to a hotel under custody.

[Reporter] The Cubans were received in Peru, according to the Peruvian Embassy. [end recording]

Brazil

Jewish Institutions Reinforce Security

PY2107023394 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 20 Jul 94 p 15

[Text] Sao Paulo—Security at all Jewish institutions in Brazil was reinforced yesterday as consequence of the bomb attack that took place on 18 July in Buenos Aires. According to Rabbi Henrique Sobel, president of the Sao Paulo Israeli Congregation of Rabbinate, the Civilian, Military, and Federal Police are in charge of this preventive custody. There are 15,000 Jewish institutions in Sao Paulo alone, where 100,000 Brazilians of Jewish origin reside.

"If it happened in Argentina, it could happen in Brazil. Anti-Semitism, like any other expression of racism, does not know of geographic borders," Sobel said.

Meanwhile, Ronaldo Gomlevsky, chairman of the Rio de Janeiro Israeli Federation, said that he does not intend to ask the government to reinforce custody at Jewish institutions, as the Sao Paulo Israeli Federation chairman Isser Levin requested.

"The Rio de Janeiro Israeli Federation is a Brazilian institution that is the responsibility of the Brazilian Government, and the Brazilian Government is its government. Anything that could happen to a Brazilian citizen, be he Jewish or not, is the responsibility of the Brazilian Government," Gomlevsky said.

Arabs in Foz do Iguazu Deny Links to 'Terrorists'

PY2107021194 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2300 GMT 20 Jul 94

[Report by Carmen Celia in Foz do Iguazu, Parana State]

[Text] The Arab community that lives in the border area with Argentina in Parana State reacted to a Buenos Aires newspaper article that reported that the region is the operations base of terrorist groups. The news was published in CLARIN, the main Argentine newspaper. In Puerto Iguazu, Argentina, on the border with Brazil, the Argentine National Police commander did not confirm what was published in CLARIN but he admitted that security in the border was reinforced.

Anyone who today crossed the border here in Foz do Iguazu between Brazil and Argentina has had to identify himself. The police stopped all vehicles and demanded identification documents from all passengers in both the Argentine and Brazilian customs offices. Last year the Argentine and Brazilian police participated in a similar operation to investigate a report by the Israeli secret police that said that two Palestinian members of a terrorist organization were allegedly living in this border region.

Police activity in the border area and the Argentine newspaper article are worrying the Arab community in Foz do Iguazu, which is one of the largest in Brazil. The Arab immigrants deny the charges and defend themselves:

[Begin Islamic Culture Center Director Amal Osman recording] There is no evidence that those individuals were around here. If they had been here our own community would have denounced them because we repudiate this kind of thing. We want them far away from here because we want to live in peace. [end recording]

Police Deny Investigations of Arab Community

PY2107012694 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 20 Jul 94 p 15

[Text] Brasilia—The Federal Police [PF] yesterday confirmed that there are suspicions of weapons trafficking on the Brazilian border with Paraguay. Parana PF Superintendent Jose Milton Rodrigues nonetheless denied that the PF detected contacts between alleged terrorists and weapons traffickers in the region, as reported yesterday by the Argentine newspaper CLARIN.

According to CLARIN, the Argentine National Intelligence Center had allegedly identified in Foz do Iguazu a "support structure that provides logistical support for terrorists who attack Israeli citizens."

Rodrigues reported that the PF did not carry out any investigation about alleged Islamic terrorist groups in Foz de Iguazu. He reported that the largest Arab and

Palestinian community in Brazil resides in the region, but there are no suspicions or investigations being carried regarding them.

"The Arab and Palestinian community is very large. Trade is the main activity of these people. They are a migratory community. Many of them live in Ciudad del Este, Paraguay, and maintain their businesses there, but they keep their bank accounts in Foz do Iguazu. That does not mean they are terrorists and weapons traffickers," Rodrigues said.

Foz de Iguazu PF Director Inspector Nilson Souza yesterday received Argentine police officials. He did not want to speak about the reports published by CLARIN. The Paraguayan police also denied that they are investigating the alleged existence of terrorist groups in Paraguay.

"There is no investigation on this subject. We know about the Argentine suspicions, but for the time being, we do not have anything, not even a suspicion," said Paraguayan Deputy Superintendent Benitez over the phone.

Franco Demands Wage Increase; Ricupero Threatens To Resign

PY2007170594 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 19 Jul 94 p 9

[Article by Silvia Faria and Sandra Brasil]

[Text] Brasilia—President Itamar Franco yesterday made the economic team members feel uncomfortable, during a meeting at Planalto Palace in which a wage increase for public employees was discussed, as he demanded that the economic ministers demonstrate, during a new meeting scheduled for today, how the national budget is being spent. Ignoring the economic ministers' arguments that there are no funds for a wage increase, President Franco ordered Finance Minister Rubens Ricupero and Planning Minister Beni Veras to find a way to grant a wage increase for public employees. According to aides, Ricupero is threatening to resign from his post if the president authorizes a wage increase that could affect the Real Plan.

"The president is doubting our figures," one of the economic ministers said.

While Ministers Ricupero and Beni Veras said that there is not enough money to guarantee the first stage of the Equal Salary Treatment Bill, which will have a monthly impact of 422 million reals [R] on the federal payroll, Federal Administration Minister Romildo Canhim and Armed Forces Joint Chief of Staff Admiral Arnaldo Leite Pereira guaranteed President Franco that the federal budget foresees an additional R2.1 billion allocation for payroll expenses. If the wage increase were granted on 1 August, as President Franco wants, the Treasury will need R2.53 billion through the end of the year. The economic ministers say that such an additional allocation does not exist.

"The president wants to do something to help us," Adm. Leite Pereira said.

During the meeting Ricupero said that he favored granting a wage increase only for some labor categories, such as the military, but Minister Canhim did not accept this. Canhim said that a wage increase should benefit all executive branch employees, in keeping with the equal salary plan presented by the Federal Administration Secretariat and the Armed Forces General Staff. Canhim insists that a wage increase of at least 28.86 percent be granted to public employees next month.

Ricupero pointed out the risk that the wage increase could have a fatal impact on the Real Plan. Meanwhile, based on information obtained by the committee that analyzed the flow of federal revenues, Canhim and Leite said the government does not need to issue money to pay for the public employees wage increase.

The meeting yesterday was also attended by Civilian Household Minister Henrique Hargreaves, Strategic Affairs Secretary Admiral Mario Cesar Flores, and General Counsel Geraldo Quintao.

Chile

Iranian Embassy Rejects Ties to Argentine Attack

PY2107033194 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish 0100 GMT 21 Jul 94

[Text] The Iranian Embassy in Santiago released today a formal declaration rejecting the accusations about possible Iranian participation in the attack perpetrated in Buenos Aires. The declaration condemns any kind of terrorist acts.

Colombia

Armed Forces Increase Security in Wake of Attacks

PA2007135894 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Jul 94

[From "Caracol's 0600 to 0900" newscast]

[Text] Cartagena—Since early this morning, all military personnel in Bolivar Department have been placed on first degree alert as a result of the increase in violence and guerrilla threats to attack the Armed Forces.

The decision was adopted in recent hours by commanders of the [words indistinct] force, 1st Infantry Marine Brigade, and National Police [words indistinct], who agreed that the events on the eastern plains is evidence of the critical situation that has befallen the nation's institutions.

Likewise, security measures at various military installations throughout the department have been increased, as

well as at ECOPETROL [Colombian Petroleum Enterprises] installations in the municipality of [words indistinct]

Bombs Near Military Sites Cause Damage

PA2007135394 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Jul 94

[Report by Edgar Gallego in Medellin; from "Caracol's 0600 to 0900" newscast; broadcast in progress]

[Text] ...a dynamite charge was planted at a bridge under military control in Churido, between Carepa and Apartado, causing only slight structural damage. Another device exploded near the headquarters of the (Bolt-iqueros) Battalion without serious consequences.

The region of Uraba is currently without electricity and a possible guerrilla involvement is being investigated, because members of the FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia] erected a roadblock for several hours at (La Paya), between Cativo and Manglar.

Emergency Room, Garrison Attacked

PA2007200994 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Canal A Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 20 Jul 94

[Report by Cesar Castro and Oswaldo Florez from the "Cripton Newscast"]

[Text] The FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia] has been harassing police forces in Bogota's southeastern area. A CAI [Immediate Attention Center] was attacked at the road exit that leads to Villavicencio. Fighting began when residents in neighborhoods close to the road to Villavicencio spotted 40 armed individuals. One hour later, at 2015, a police patrol car was blown up with dynamite while answering the anxious call of the CAI Los Libertadores agents who were being attacked by guerrillas.

[Begin unidentified policeman recording] I was on my way with reinforcements, and this is what they attacked. [end recording]

At the Altamira police garrison guerrillas shot up the facilities. There were no casualties in either attack. Operations to control the situation lasted until dawn.

Public order was affected in Narino Department after a FARC column of approximately 150 men placed roadblocks on the Pan-American Highway, intending to attack Ipiales. They were repelled by combined Army and police forces. In the clash, a woman guerrilla was killed, and two other guerrillas were captured. A noncommissioned police officer, one soldier, and three civilians, including a minor, were wounded.

[Begin Narino Police Commander Carlos Manuel Martinez recording] They fled after the clash and were chased by National Police units from Ipiales. [end recording]

Military equipment and a great number of FARC pamphlets were seized from the guerrillas.

Security organizations in Narino and Putumayo Departments have drafted a broad plan to repel further guerrilla actions.

A last-minute report says that guerrillas have just blown up La Jalea Bridge on the road between Sogamoso and Yopal. Bocaya Department is now cut off from Casanare Department. There is now cargo and road congestion on this road.

Rebels Continue Offensive

PA2107044194 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Canal A Network in Spanish 0130 GMT 21 Jul 94

[From the "AM/PM" newscast]

[Text] Guerrillas staged simultaneous raids at the Artillery School, in the Cruz Verde Mountain area, and at two CAI [Immediate Attention Centers] south of Bogota. In the southeastern area on the road to Llano, guerrillas blew up a police patrol at the bridge over (La Pichosa) Creek. One officer and one policeman were injured. The police vehicle was destroyed.

Rebels killed four more policemen today and conducted raids in Ipiales, Narino Department; Caqueta Department; and in Chingaza, Viota, and Sopo in Cundinamarca Department. In the Uraba region, guerrillas blew up an electricity tower, erected roadblocks in Tulua, Valle del Cauca Department, and destroyed the bridge linking Boyaca and Casanare Departments. They also took over Roncesvalles in Tolima Department. The guerrilla offensive was also felt in a vast area of Huila Department. They staged attacks in Tello and Baraya and an ambush in an area known as Puente del Paca. Here is reporter Olga Cecilia Guerrero.

[Begin Guerrero recording] Fighting between Tenerife Batallion soldiers and members of the 21st Front of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia in an area 55 km from the Neiva-Bogota road resulted in the death of three people; one civilian and two guerrillas. The clash ensued when the rebels erected two roadblocks, one in Velu, Tolima Department, and one at El Pata toll booth. Three people were also injured in this action.

According to authorities, the rebels were trying to ambush Army reinforcements arriving at the bombed out toll booth. The rebels stole the safe with last night's revenues. Sergeant Fernando Galindes, Ocol Security Chief Carlogs Restrepo, and Civil Defense official Eduardo Sarmiento were injured on the way back from helping the Paez flood victims. They are receiving medical attention at the Social Security hospitals and at Neiva General Hospital. [end recording]

Sanin Cancels Italy Visit Over U.S. Ties

PA2007140194 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Jul 94

[From "Caracol's 0600 to 0900" newscast]

[Text] The tension in relations between the United States and Colombia, which are being handled at the diplomatic level, has prevented Foreign Affairs Minister Noemi Sanin from traveling to Italy, where she was going to sign several agreements. The minister, who was also planning to spend the 20 July national holiday in Rome, decided instead to cancel her trip.

Peru

Fujimori to 'Terrorists': Surrender or Die

PY2007184794 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1657 GMT 20 Jul 94

[Text] Lima, 20 Jul (EFE)—Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori has issued an ultimatum to terrorists under arms to surrender under the repentance law, which will probably be repealed by the end of 1994, "or be exterminated."

During a tour of Cuzco Department, located 1,000 km southeast of Lima, Fujimori said that if the recalcitrant subversives do not surrender "the full weight of the law will fall on them."

He added that the repentance law will not be in force for many more months, and will probably be repealed by December 1994.

Fujimori promised that when his presidential term expires in July 1995, subversion will have been eradicated from the country, because "it is our intention to exterminate any trace of terrorism that may remain in Peru."

Fujimori said that the meetings between the government and arrested terrorist leaders continue to be held periodically, but that the government is not negotiating with them.

After stating that 95 percent of Shining Path [SL] leaders have been arrested, and that the rest will be arrested little by little, Fujimori said that the "government continues to demand the unconditional surrender of terrorists and the handing over of their guns."

"This is the objective of the meetings held with the jailed SL leaders," said Fujimori, who thus admitted the existence of such meetings.

Political analysts, however, have criticized the repentance law.

The weekly PERUPAZ states that according to this law "repentants" can benefit if they disclose information about other SL members and about the organizational structure of either SL or the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA).

The problem with this system, which has already been admitted by the authorities, is that some of the charges made by the "repentants" cannot be verified. In view of this, many innocent people have been sent to jail and, because it takes a long time to prove their innocence, they are wrongly jailed for long periods of time.

In addition, according to officials, and in flagrant violation of the repentance law, important terrorist leaders have been released recently because of the excellent information they supplied.

The repentance law states that "it is unfitting to grant the benefits of repentance to those holding leadership posts" in terrorist organizations.

Officials alleged, however, that one of those released supplied important information which led to the arrest on 12 September 1992 of SL Leader Abimael Guzman, who was sentenced to life imprisonment.

In view of these problems, President Fujimori has been compelled to announce that the repentance law will be in force for a limited period of time.

Moreover, according to press reports, some repentants have charged that they lack the proper protection because some of them have been avenged by SL members still in arms.

According to these press reports, in view of this the flow of repentants has virtually ceased.

In its conclusion the PERUPAZ study states that "it is possible that more than one of them is a sincere repentant, but it is also possible that they are not. If this is the case, terrorist actions could recover some of their lost force. This is a situation that should be avoided."

Colombia's Gaviria Discusses U.S. Ties, Drugs

PY2107035694 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 13 Jul 94 p A4

[Text] Colombian President Cesar Gaviria Trujillo said yesterday that any new Peruvian Government request to extradite former Peruvian President Alan Garcia, channeled through the judicial branch and diplomatic channels, will be answered through the same channels. He added that at the proper time, the Colombian Government will have to assess the new situation.

During a news conference held shortly before his return to Colombia, Gaviria stated that before granting political asylum to Garcia, the Colombian government consulted Colombian Foreign Ministry experts who unanimously supported the decision and accepted Garcia Perez's request because they believed it was proper and in compliance with international laws.

Gaviria stated that he could not comment on theories or rumors about Alan Garcia's alleged involvement in several crimes committed during his administration.

He said: "We were respectful of the regulations in force. Any proceedings undertaken through the Judicial Branch will be answered accordingly and through diplomatic channels. It will be not be done through a Colombian president's statement.

Regarding drug enforcement, Gaviria said that the spectrum of the countries involved should be expanded. He said it should not be restricted to only three countries: Peru, Colombia and Bolivia. He added: "To restrict this struggle to three South American countries is like indicating that they are the only ones responsible for the situation."

Gaviria said that drug trafficking affects the entire continent of the Americas.

He said: "If a meeting was held to coordinate drug-related issues, I would say the minimum that should be done is to achieve an agreement on the points of view of countries that attended the San Antonio (Texas) Summit. It would also be desirable for other Central American countries to get involved in this effort."

Commenting on Colombian-U.S. ties after the suspension of radars, a setback in the judicial field, and the DEA's [Drug Enforcement Administration's] recent refusal to renew Colombia police chief's U.S. entry visa, Gaviria Trujillo said he is not satisfied with the reasons provided by the U.S. Government.

He admitted that after the issuance of communiques by the DEA, the Colombian Defense Ministry and the Police, the situation is very difficult.

He said: "The answers, the decision or reasons provided by the United States to justify its action (to refuse the entry of the police chief) "are unsatisfactory."

He insisted that they (the DEA) were aware of the circumstances and detils involving this visit and that, therefore, the explanations given are insufficient.

For the time being, Gaviria refused to comment on the U.S. attitude regarding the Colombian police chief.

He added, however, that whatever the objections the U.S. Government may have against his policies or the people who implement them, it cannot be expressed through gestures of this nature.

Gaviria also denied any eventual impediment for the Colombian media to broadcast an alleged recorded conversation between President-elect Ernesto Samper and a group of drug traffickers.

He explained that officials enforced an existing law establishing that certain types of anonymous recordings supplied by criminal groups cannot be broadcast by the mass media.

Regarding the OAS general secretariat, which he will assume on 7 September, Gaviria said he hopes to outline guidelines about what he believes should be the OAS role in the years to come.

Gaviria stated: "I will suggest some modifications which must be studied by the OAS to better adapt to its new role, which should strive to safeguard human rights, strengthen democracy, safeguard the environment, and see to issues pertaining to trade and achieve progress toward the convergence of the different trade processes that are taking place in this continent."

Addresses Congress

PY2107040094 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 13 Jul 94 p A4

[Text] Colombian President Cesar Gaviria expressed yesterday his faith in Congress as "the genuine expression of the people's will" and demanded the modernization of the state to become "the main instrument to strengthen democracy and to struggle without dismay against administrative corruption."

Gaviria made this remark upon being honored by the government during a solemn ceremony in the hall that used to seat the Senate that was attended by representatives of all government sectors, ministers, and diplomats.

In his speech, Gaviria strongly defended the legislative branch and pointed out that democracy and freedom practically prevail in all of the Americas but that this "does not mean that we have eradicated the threat of despotism forever."

He said: "We must struggle together for the implementation and strengthening of the necessary political, economic, and social reforms that would allow us to build permanent solid bases on which real and lasting democracies could settle in our continent."

In this regard, Gaviria said that a weak state is not able to maintain a strong democracy.

He added: "We need a strong state that, in defense of the public interest, would not only keep control over what is happening in the market but would also take a vigorous initiative for investments in human resources, that is, to concentrate investments on people."

Gaviria pointed out the need for decentralization in order for the people to have greater participation in local decisions that would give more legitimacy and responsibility to political institutions.

During his 15-minute speech, Gaviria noted the friendship and cooperation linking our people, and the efforts made in Peru, especially "its successful struggle against terrorism" as well as the efforts to overcome the economic crisis, its return to the financial community and to the Andean Pact, and the economic achievements after years of stagnation.

Before the speech, Gaviria placed a wreath at the monument of liberator Simon Boliviar.

He was then received at the door of Congress by Democratic Constituent Congress President Jaime Yoshiyama, and its Vice Presidents Carlos Torres y Torres Lara and Victor Joy Way.

Poll Shows Fujimori Ahead of Perez de Cuellar

PY2007185094 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1954 GMT 18 Jul 94

[Text] Lima, 18 Jul (EFE)—According to a poll disclosed by a political television program on the night of 17 July, Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori has increased his level of popularity to 45 percent, while ex-UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar has fallen to 26 percent.

According to a poll carried out by the private company Apoyo S.A., if the general elections were held now Fujimori would get 45 percent of the votes, Perez de Cuellar 26 percent, and Lima Mayor Ricardo Belmont, who has registered to run before the National Election Board, would get 11 percent.

According to another poll, carried out at the beginning of this month by the Imasen company, Fujimori would get 43.1 percent, Perez de Cuellar 28.2 percent, and Belmont 13.1 percent.

According to Apoyo, if the first two supposed candidates—taking into account that neither has officially announced his candidacy—had to go to a second round of elections, Fujimori would receive 50 percent of the votes and Perez de Cuellar 38 percent.

Regarding approval of their administration, Apoyo says Fujimori received 57 percent in favor with 26 percent against, while Belmont as mayor of Lima received 49 percent in favor and a 27 percent level of disapproval.

Uruguay

Iranian Arrested; Jewish Community Given More Security

PY2107014894 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2339 GMT 20 Jul 94

[Excerpts] Montevideo, 20 Jul (EFE)—Police spokespersons have reported that an Iranian citizen was arrested on 20 July in Uruguay and he is being investigated in order to determine whether he had anything to do with the 18 July attack against the seat of the Argentine-Israeli Mutual Association (AMIA).

The spokespersons also reported that an anonymous bomb threat was received in an apartment in Montevideo where rabbis frequently meet, but it turned out to be a false alarm.

The arrested Iranian, whose residence documents have expired, is 30 years old and he has been residing in Montevideo for the past six years.

Apparently the attitude of the Iranian and an abrupt change of domicile was what caught the attention of the Uruguayan police, who arrested him for questioning.

Some Montevideo press reports indicate that the police have presumably confiscated some compromising notes and some letters that belong to the Iranian, but this has not been officially confirmed. [passage omitted]

After the attack on the AMIA building on 18 July, the 52 social, cultural, religious, and sports institutions that are in the hands of the Jewish community in Montevideo have now been given special police security.

Uruguayan Defense Minister Hugo Martins has announced that the Uruguayan Armed Forces are carrying out a security operation that includes patrols in several zones of the country. [passage omitted]

Venezuela

Iranian Ambassador Declared Persona Non Grata

Remarks on Kidnapping 'Unacceptable'

PA2007172494 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1616 GMT 20 Jul 94

[Text] Caracas, 20 Jul (EFE)—The Venezuelan Foreign Affairs Ministry has confirmed that the government has declared Iranian Ambassador to Venezuela Reza Zargarbashi persona non grata in this country.

The Venezuelan Government made this decision based on the diplomat's statements following an incident where Iranian Embassy personnel tried to kidnap a former Iranian Government official who had sought asylum in Venezuela.

The statements by Zargarbashi, who talked about a "fabricated and completely distorted incident," were deemed "unacceptable" by the Venezuelan Government, which ordered the expulsion of the four Iranian diplomats who participated in the kidnapping attempt.

Foreign Ministry Remarks

PA2107011194 Caracas Union Radio Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 20 Jul 94

[From the "Union Radio News" newscast]

[Text] According to a communique released by the Venezuelan Foreign Ministry, Iranian Ambassador Reza Zargarbashi, who has been declared persona non grata, must leave the country in 48 hours.

The document refers to the ambassador's remarks, which were quoted in a communique released by the Iranian Embassy on 29 July regarding an incident on 19 July when an Iranian family arrived in Venezuela.

The Venezuelan Foreign Ministry communique states: The ambassador's remarks require us to report that, according to investigations carried out by our security agencies, four Iranian diplomats appear to have been directly involved in the serious incident at the Simon Bolivar International Airport, where there was an attempt to forcefully repatriate to Teheran an Iranian family that had been given refugee status by the UNHCR in Turkey.

The communique adds: This incident is a serious violation of our legal order, the standard of coexistence between states, and diplomatic practice. For that reason, the Venezuelan Government expelled four diplomats of the Iranian Embassy. The Venezuelan Government cannot permit outrages in the national territory, much less accusations that our security agencies are lying or distorting the truth regarding actions by the head of the Iranian Embassy and the embassy's communique. The Venezuelan Government has decided to declare Ambassador Reza Zargarbashi persona non grata, according to Article 9 of the Vienna Convention on diplomatic relations signed in 1961.

Venezuelan Foreign Minister Miguel Angel Burelli Rivas, making a brief report at Miraflores presidential palace, said that as the result of the events, his office has requested the departure of two more officials.

[Begin Burelli recording] According to the Vienna Convention, he must go because he has been declared persona non grata. The only difference would be the time of departure, which could be the next flight, 70 hours, or something like that. [end recording]

Senator Supports Diplomats' Expulsion

PA2107011794 Caracas Union Radio Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 20 Jul 94

[From the "Union Radio News" newscast]

[Text] Haydee Castillo de Lopez, president of the Senate's political commission, has said that the Venezuelan foreign minister acted correctly in the case of the Iranian diplomats because human rights violations cannot be allowed in the country. She also said that, according to reports, the Venezuelan Foreign Ministry had every right to intervene by expelling those people because their behavior was not up to diplomatic standards.

[Begin Castillo recording] The Iranian Foreign Ministry's remarks regarding this incident were inconsiderate of Venezuela and its government. The Iranians' current stance is not very friendly. If the Venezuelan Government decides to declare the Iranian ambassador persona non grata, it is the government's privilege. I am concerned—and I think we should all be concerned—about the Venezuelan diplomats in Iran, because one way or another, they are the possible hostages in this problem. [end recording]

Caldera Appoints Economic Support Minister

PA2007220594 Paris AFP in Spanish 2018 GMT 20 Jul 94

[Text] Caracas, 20 Jul (AFP)—According to official reports, President Rafael Caldera today reinforced his economic cabinet by appointing economist Raul Matos Azocar minister for economic support.

Matos Azocar was planning minister for a short time during the administration of Jaime Lusinchi (1979-1983), with whom Matos Azocar shared Democratic Action membership until Lusinchi was expelled last year.

In last December's elections, Matos Azocar was elected deputy as a member of National Convergence, a party made up of dissidents from COPEI [Social Christian Party], Movement Toward Socialism, the Communist Party of Venezuela, and other minorities that backed Caldera's candidacy.

Before his appointment, Matos Azocar was presidential commissioner for preparing the 1995 budget and reorganizing public expenditures, a job he will reportedly continue to perform.

With the resignation of the third planning minister since Caldera assumed office, Matos Azocar appeared a strong candidate to occupy the position, which observers said he would decline.

Venezuela is in the midst of a critical stage. Constitutional and economic rights have been suspended and price and exchange controls established in an official effort to check high inflation and devaluation rates during the first half of the year.

Caldera Swears In Directors of CVG Group

PA1907150094 Caracas Union Radio Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 15 Jul 94

[Report by Vicente Briceno from Miraflores Palace; from the "Union Radio News" newscast]

[Text] The main goal of the Venezuelan Corporation of Guayana [CVG] will be to reestablish strategic associations with foreign investors, who will provide most of the capital. Alfredo Gruber said this after being sworn in as president of CVG. He pointed out that the new leadership's policy will attract international capital by offering a larger share of the stock, as was the case before 1974. There will be financial as well as technological support.

Gruber said that several foreign companies have shown interest in forming associations, especially with Alcasa [Caroni Aluminum, Inc.] Thus this process, which is expected to conclude in eight months, is now under way. He reported that an agreement was signed on 14 July with several ministers in the executive cabinet and with the governors of Bolivar, Amazonas, and Amacuro States to establish a coherent policy on developing mining operations that would facilitate this kind of association.

[Begin Gruber recording] We would have to apply the same policy to the rest of the sector, but we haven't started to do this yet. We have advanced the processes in Alcasa and Fesilven [expansion unknown]; we are working with the steel industry.

The corporation is of course also promoting investments in the iron industry. We are about to sign an agreement on a strategic association [words indistinct] and with (Ambo) Steel, a Korean company. This seeks to increase the added value of iron ore, since the iron market is now focused on value-added products. [end recording]

Meanwhile, in swearing in the CVG's Board of Directors, President Rafael Caldera pointed out that his administration wants to encourage private sector participation in the various areas of this organization.

[Begin Caldera recording] Venezuelan and foreign capital and techology have been sought since the creation of Alcasa, or Caroni Aluminum, Inc., to take advantage of all possibilities afforded by this industrial activity. There is no reason to restart this initiative, which was successful for various years after the nationalization that occurred in the public sector between 1974 and 1979. [end recording]

CVG's new Board of Directors is comprised of Alfredo Gruber, its chairman; Principal Directors Gustavo Coronel, Luis Alvaray, Alonso Velasco, and Jose Francisco Zurita; and Alternate Directors Pedro Jose Rojas Franklin, Ronald Panting, Jose Ramon Carvajal, and Antonio Ortega Mago.

Finance Minister Refutes Reports on New Taxes

PA2007200794 Caracas Union Radio Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 19 Jul 94

[Report by Zaida Pereira; from the "Union Radio News" newscast]

[Text] Finance Minister Julio Sosa Rodriguez has denied that there will be new taxes. He thus denied statements by Werner Corrales, the new minister of coordination and planning. Sosa pointed out that the only taxes that will be levied are those that the people are already aware of, that is, the 12 percent sumptuary and wholesale taxes, which will be collected beginning in August.

The minister added that these new taxes, along with the VAT [value-added tax], will yield about 300 billion bolivares next year. Thus some of the fiscal deficit will be eliminated, and the government will have more resources to implement its programs. Sosa noted that the wholesale tax should not be transferred to consumers.

[Begin Sosa recording] This tax will not have the same effect that others have had, because this one replaces a previous tax after the decision was made to not levy it directly on consumers. This tax will affect businesses [agentes de retencion] with sales of 1 million bolivares per month. There is no reason to think that this tax will affect the cost of living in view of the price adjustments made by the various commercial bodies. [end recording]

The finance minister said that the way in which this tax will be collected and its characteristics will be published in the local press beginning tomorrow.

COPEI Leader Presents Financial Crisis Solutions

PA1807040194 Caracas Union Radio Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 14 Jul 94

[Report by Cecilia Cayone; from the "Union Radio News" newscast]

[Text] COPEI [Social Christian Party] leader Oswaldo Alvarez Paz has said the Government of President Caldera has other options than to establish controls to resolve the nation's problems. Alvarez Paz said the measures adopted by the government are not the most appropriate ones for the nation. According to Alvarez Paz, these are the steps the executive should implement to resolve the crisis:

[Begin Alvarez Paz recording] The plan to control and reduce inflation must be based on three fundamental goals. First, there must be a real reduction in the fiscal deficit. This could be achieved by adjusting public spending to coincide with the new reality we are experiencing.

Second, the government must sponsor an aggressive and urgent process of decentralization, placing under state and municipal control those functions the government now maintains at a high cost and in inefficient ways.

Third, the government must immediately implement a privatization program, which, as outlined in the plan we presented before the voters, could generate $5.5 billion in revenues for the country in less than two years, if it is indeed fulfilled within the specified timeframe. This would provide a basis for opening the country to foreign and domestic investments, which would include areas such as the oil industry, the Guayana Company, and gold deposits—all of which have been mishandled. This could increase the country's foreign exchange and cash reserves, thereby providing money that could stimulate economic growth, wealth, and jobs. [end recording]

Meanwhile, Oswaldo Alvarez Paz expressed satisfaction with the results of the investigation conducted by the Legislative Defense Subcommission on the alleged smuggling of weapons. The former COPEI presidential candidate said he hopes the Radical Cause legislators who issued the report that implicated him are decent enough to admit they were wrong in accusing him of being an arms dealer.

Nevertheless, it should be pointed out this apparently will not happen, because while Alvarez Paz was holding his news conference, one floor below him at the offices of Radical Cause's legislative wing, Deputy (Mario Icea) said he intended to take the investigation into the courts.

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